STORY
Sakurako Kimino
ART
Takuminamuchi

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Strawberry Panic

Strawberry Panic

MIATOR GIRLS NAGISA AOI SHIZUMA HANAZONO TAMAO SUZUMI CHIYO TSUKIDATE
SPICA GIRLS HIKARI KONOHANA AMANE OTORI YAYA NANTO TSUBOMI OKUWAKA
LULIM GIRLS KIZUNA HYUGA CHIKARU MINAMOTO LEMON NATSUME KAGOME BYAKUDAN

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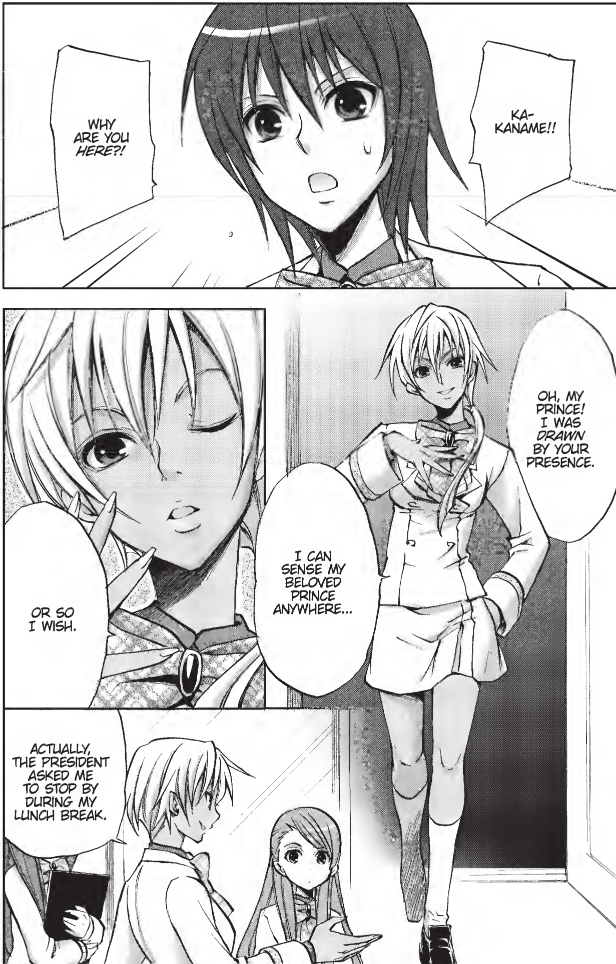
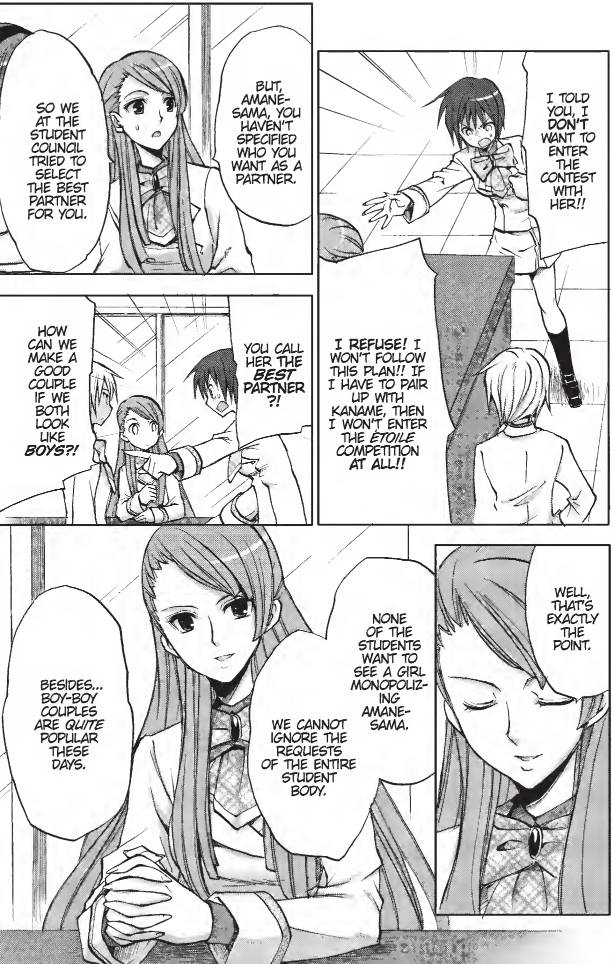
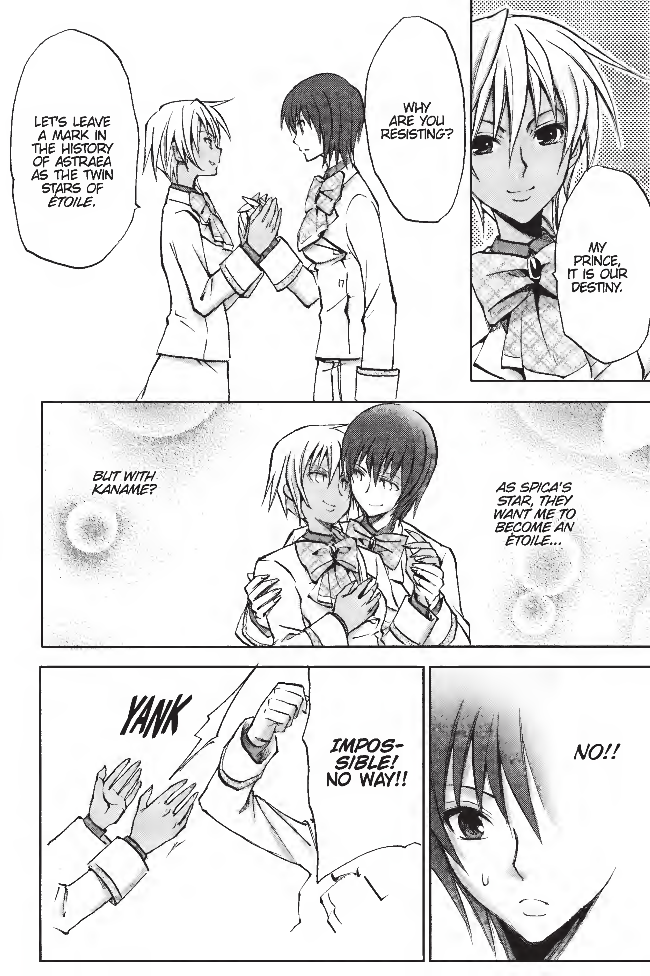
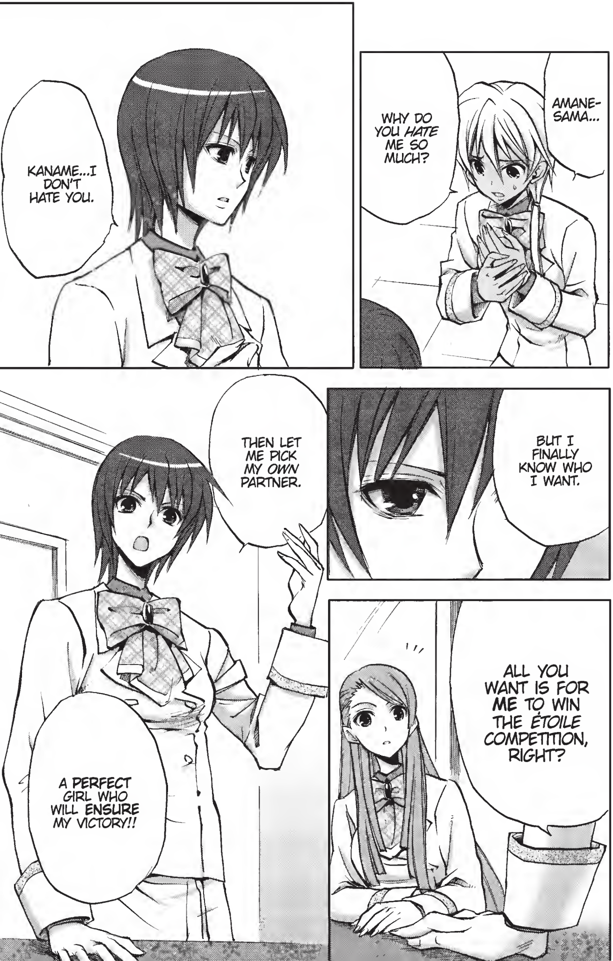
Strawberry Panic!

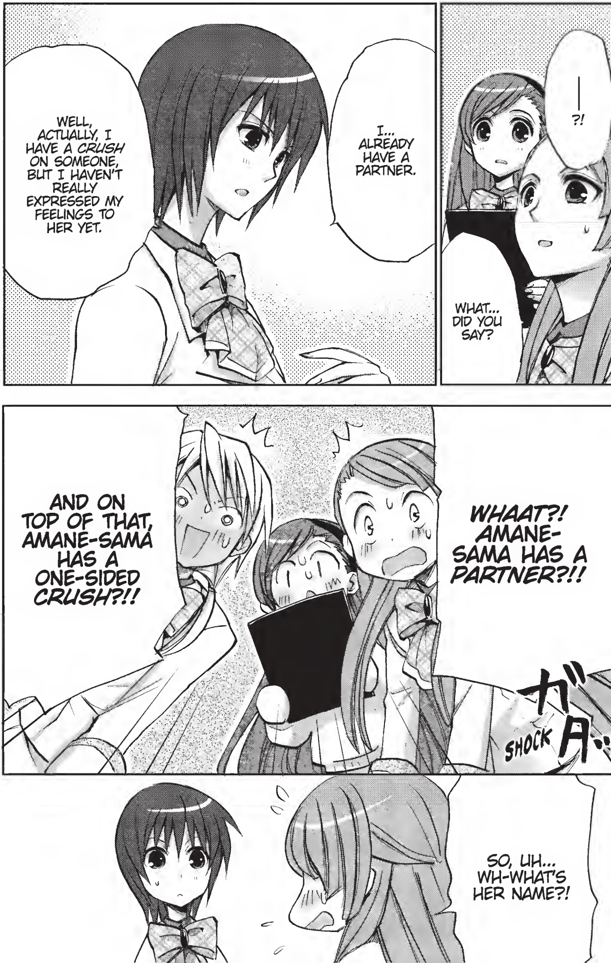
Chapter 7: Cinderella

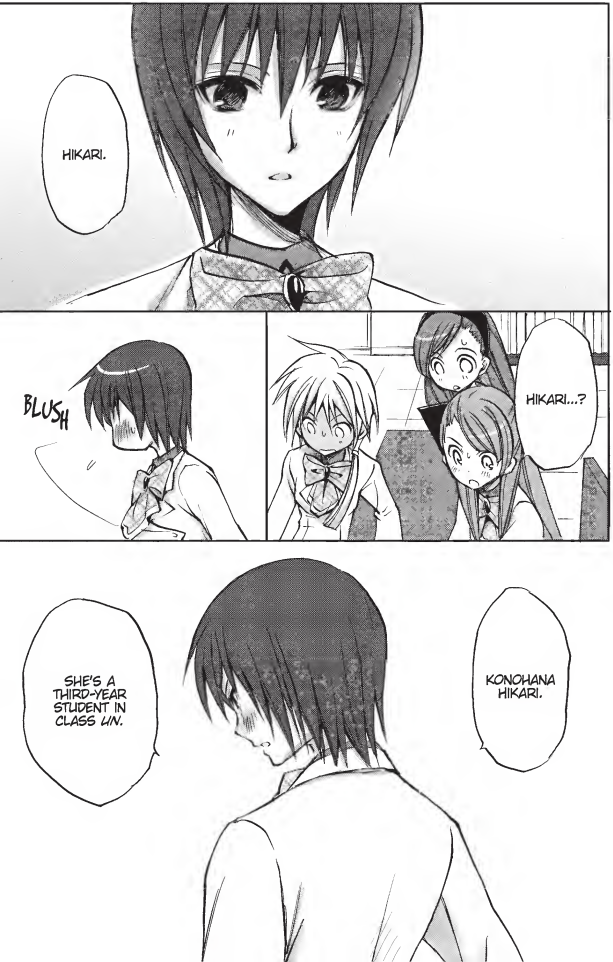

KA-KANAME!!
WHY ARE YOU *HERE?!*
OH, MY PRINCE! I WAS *DRAWN* BY YOUR PRESENCE.
I CAN SENSE MY BELOVED PRINCE ANYWHERE...
OR SO I WISH.
ACTUALLY, THE PRESIDENT ASKED ME TO STOP BY DURING MY LUNCH BREAK.

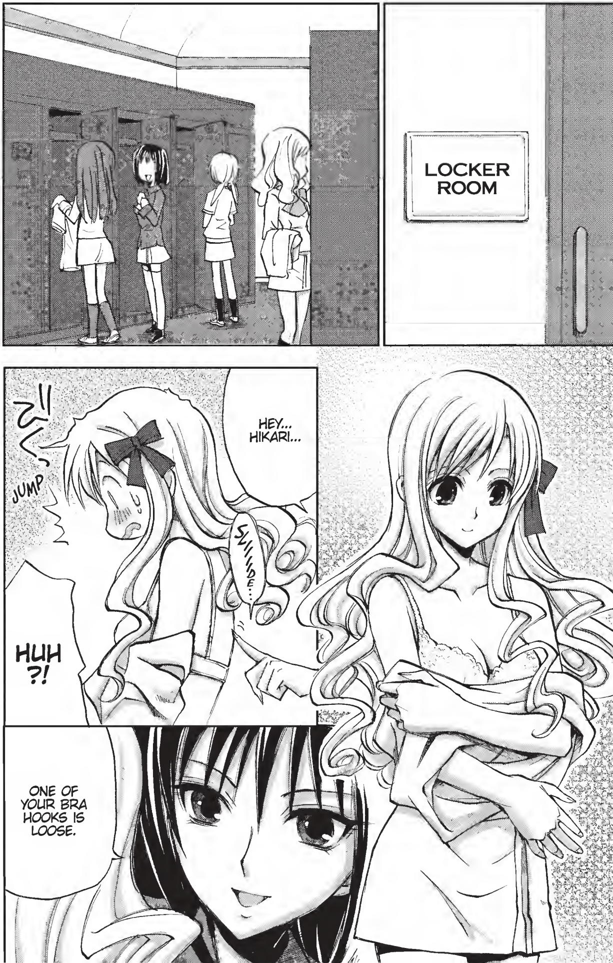

I TOLD YOU, I **DON'T** WANT TO ENTER THE CONTEST WITH HER!!
I REFUSE! I WON'T FOLLOW THIS PLAN!! IF I HAVE TO PAIR UP WITH KANAME, THEN I WON'T ENTER THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION **AT ALL!!**
BUT, AMANE-SAMA, YOU HAVEN'T SPECIFIED WHO YOU WANT AS A PARTNER.
SO WE AT THE STUDENT COUNCIL TRIED TO SELECT THE BEST PARTNER FOR YOU.
YOU CALL HER **THE *BEST* PARTNER** ?!
HOW CAN WE MAKE A GOOD COUPLE IF WE BOTH LOOK LIKE ***BOYS?!***
WELL, THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT.
NONE OF THE STUDENTS WANT TO SEE A GIRL MONOPOLIZING AMANE-SAMA.
WE CANNOT IGNORE THE REQUESTS OF THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY.
BESIDES... BOY-BOY COUPLES ARE *QUITE* POPULAR THESE DAYS.

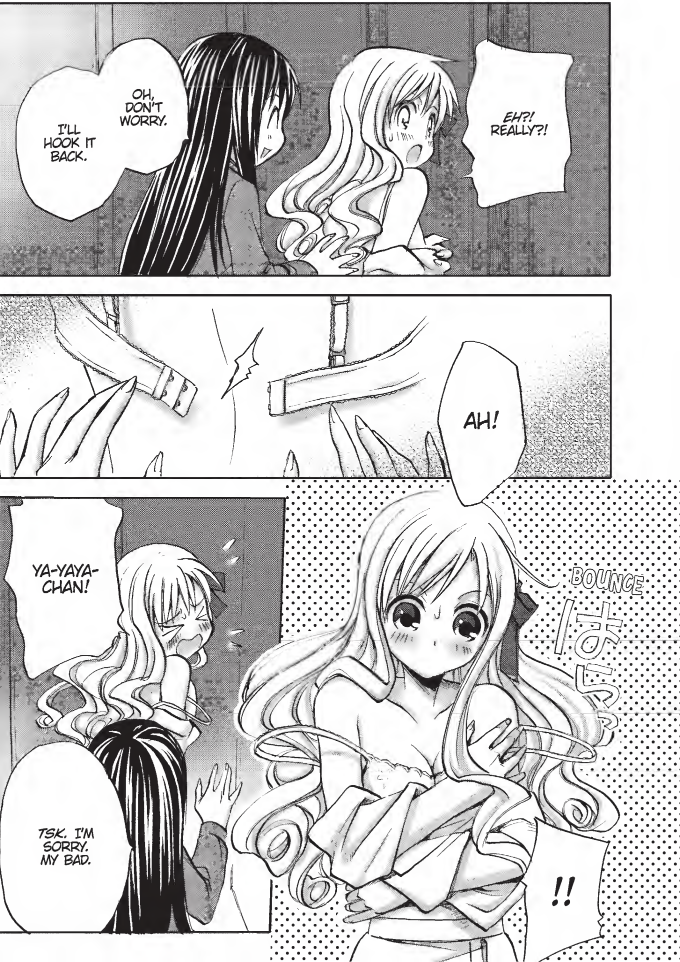

MY PRINCE, IT IS OUR DESTINY.
WHY ARE YOU RESISTING?
LET'S LEAVE A MARK IN THE HISTORY OF ASTRAEA AS THE TWIN STARS OF ÉTOILE.
AS SPICA'S STAR, THEY WANT ME TO BECOME AN ÉTOILE...
BUT WITH KANAME?
NO!!
IMPOSSIBLE! NO WAY!!
YANK

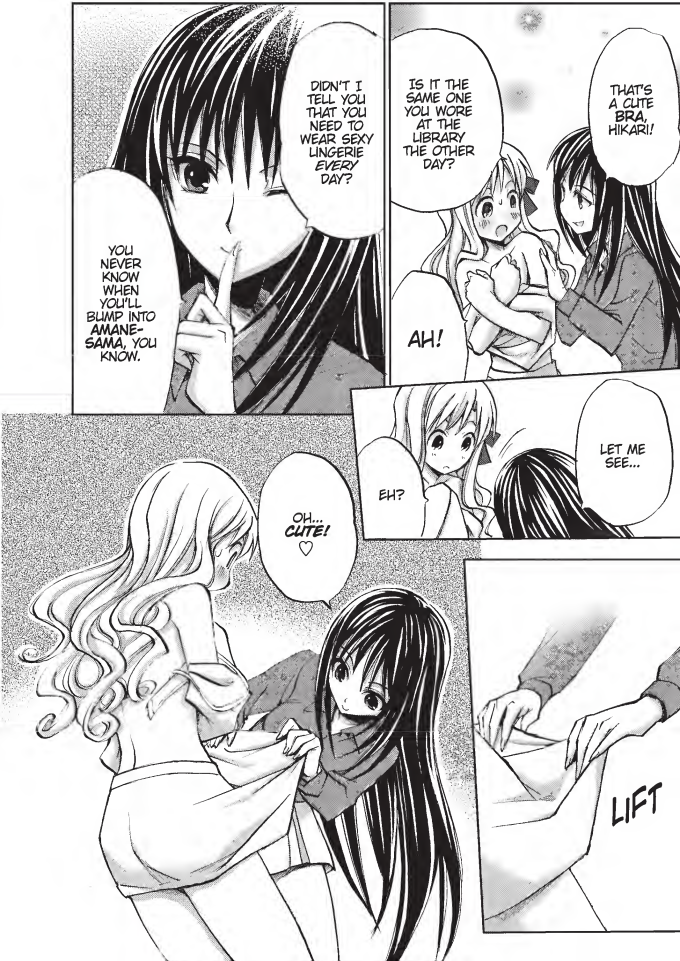

AMANE-SAMA...
WHY DO YOU *HATE* ME SO MUCH?
KANAME...I DON'T HATE YOU.
BUT I FINALLY KNOW WHO I WANT.
ALL YOU WANT IS FOR **ME** TO WIN THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION, RIGHT?
THEN LET ME PICK *MY OWN* PARTNER.
A **PERFECT** GIRL WHO WILL **ENSURE** MY VICTORY!!

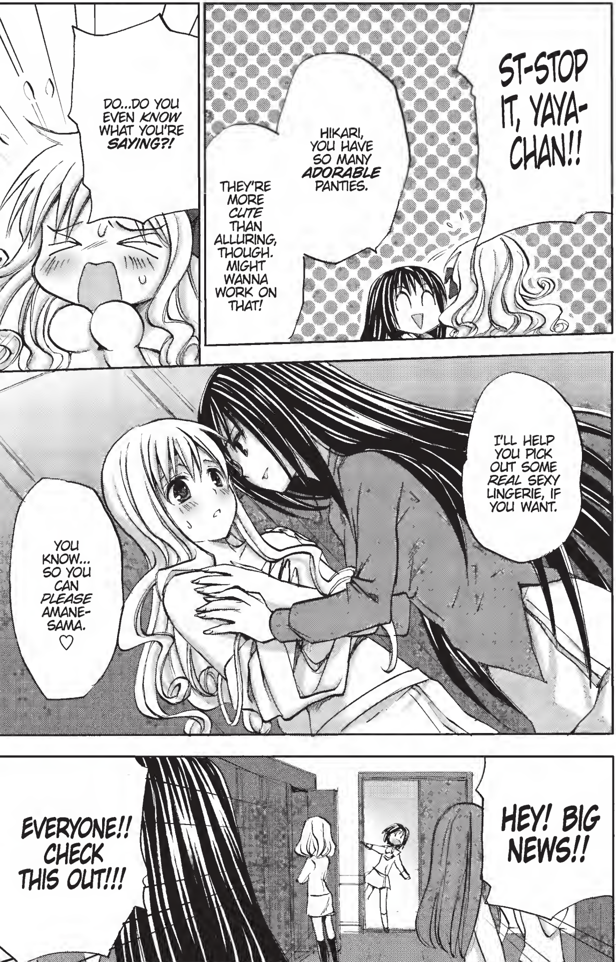

—?!
WHAT... DID YOU SAY?
I... ALREADY HAVE A PARTNER.
WELL, ACTUALLY, I HAVE A *CRUSH* ON SOMEONE, BUT I HAVEN'T REALLY EXPRESSED MY FEELINGS TO HER YET.
WHAAT?! AMANE-SAMA HAS A PARTNER?!!
AND ON TOP OF THAT, AMANE-SAMA HAS A ONE-SIDED *CRUSH?!!*
ガ
SHOCK
SO, UH... WH-WHAT'S HER NAME?!

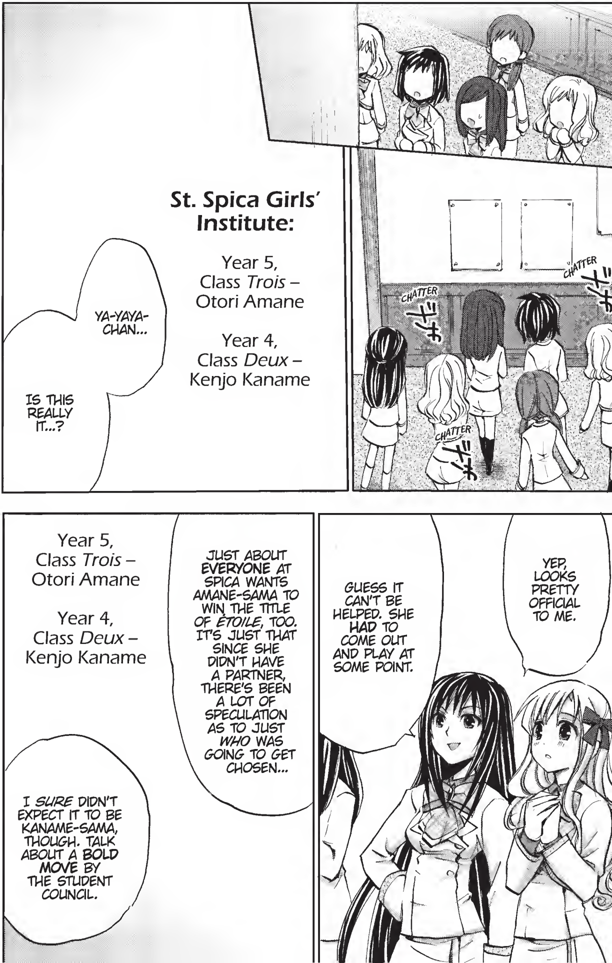

HIKARI.
HIKARI...?
BLUSH
KONOHANA HIKARI.
SHE'S A THIRD-YEAR STUDENT IN CLASS UN.

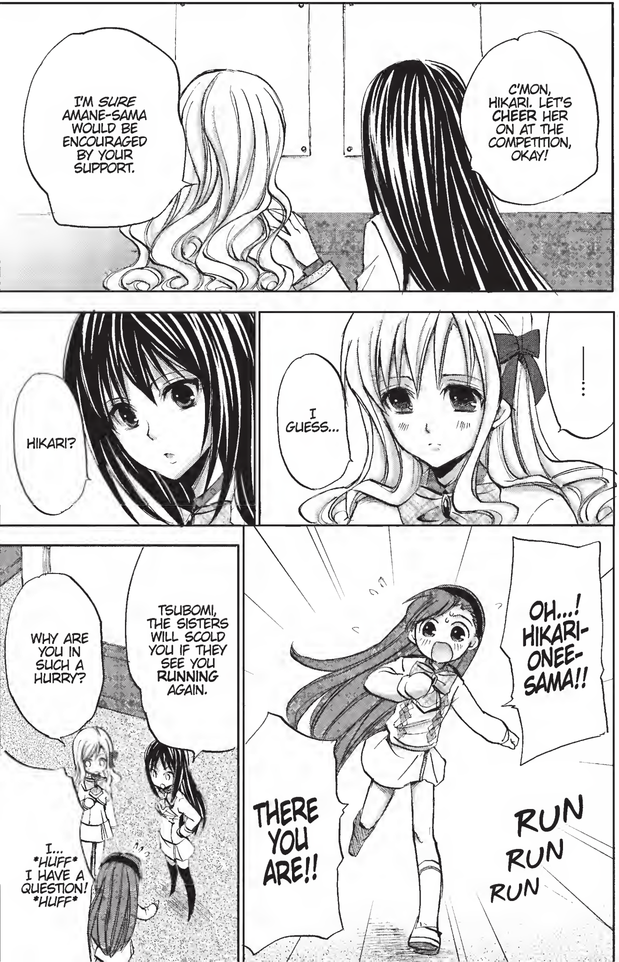

LOCKER ROOM
HEY... HIKARI...
SLIIIIDE...
びくっ
JUMP
HUH?!
ONE OF YOUR BRA HOOKS IS LOOSE.

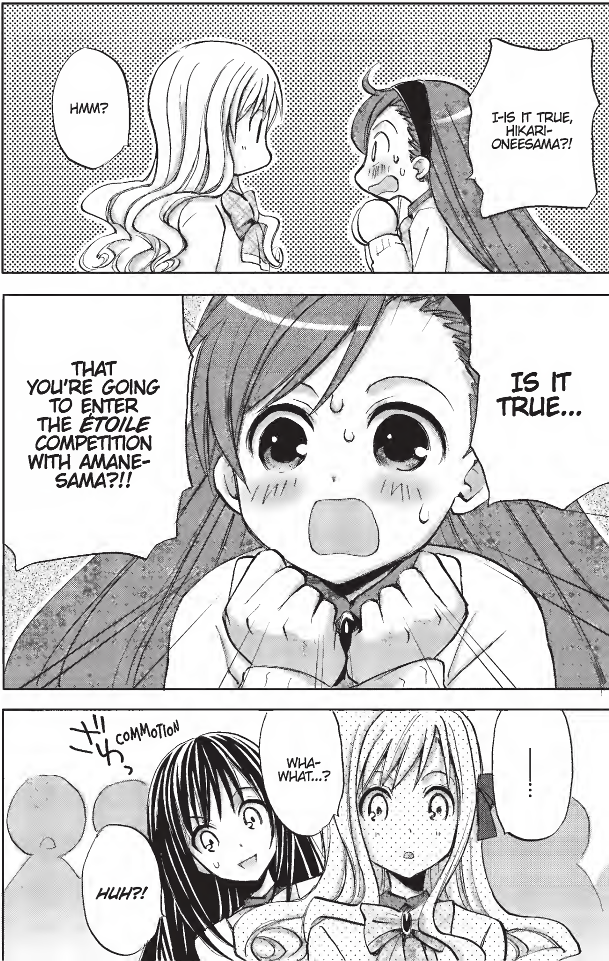

EH?! REALLY?!
OH, DON'T WORRY.
I'LL HOOK IT BACK.
AH!
BOUNCE
はらっ
!!
YA-YAYA-CHAN!
TSK. I'M SORRY. MY BAD.

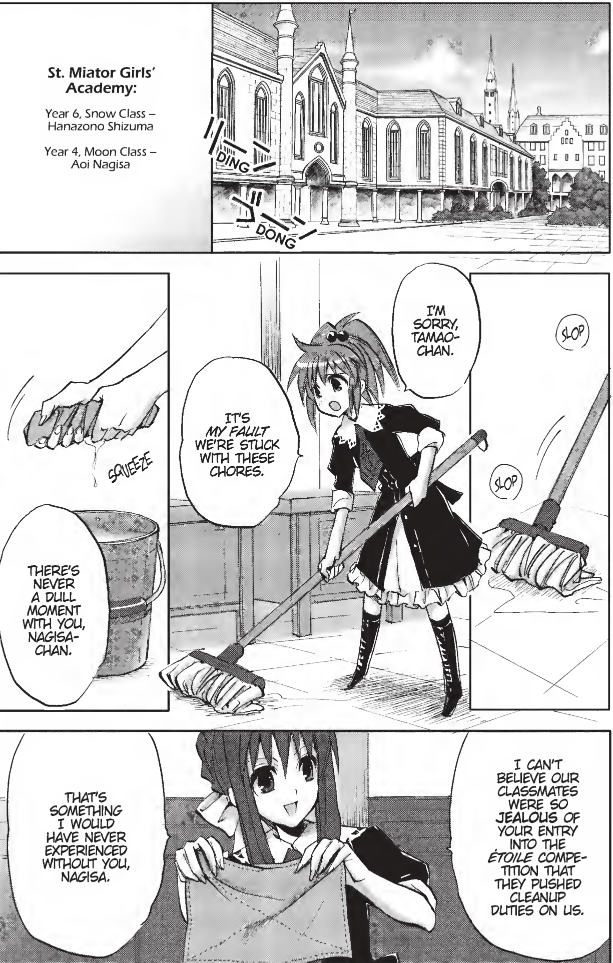

THAT'S A CUTE BRA, HIKARI!
IS IT THE SAME ONE YOU WORE AT THE LIBRARY THE OTHER DAY?
AH!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOU NEED TO WEAR SEXY LINGERIE *EVERY* DAY?
YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU'LL BUMP INTO **AMANE-SAMA**, YOU KNOW.
LET ME SEE...
EH?
LIFT
OH... ***CUTE!*** ♡

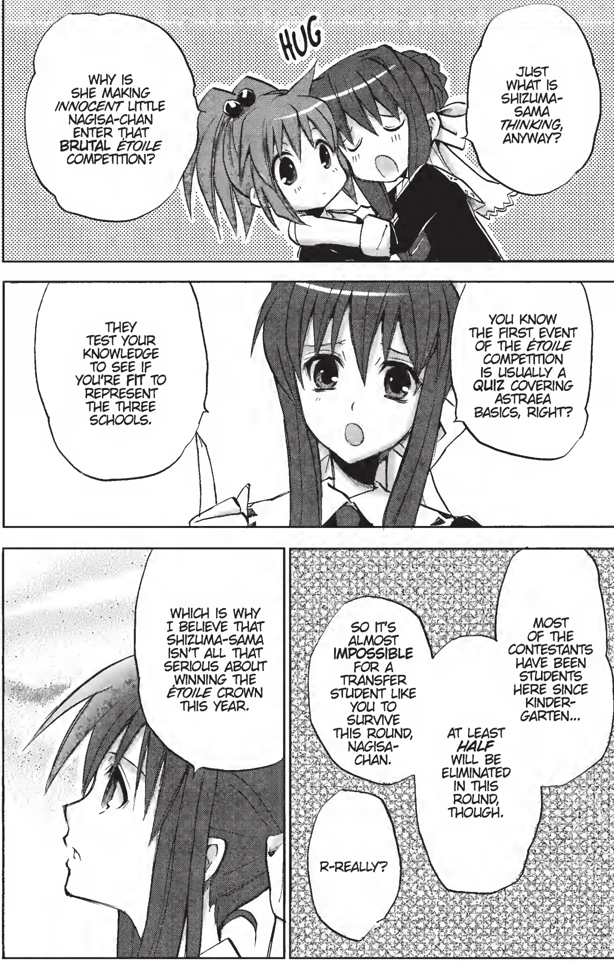

ST-STOP IT, YAYA-CHAN!!
HIKARI, YOU HAVE SO MANY ADORABLE PANTIES.
THEY'RE MORE CUTE THAN ALLURING, THOUGH. MIGHT WANNA WORK ON THAT!
DO...DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?!
I'LL HELP YOU PICK OUT SOME REAL SEXY LINGERIE, IF YOU WANT.
YOU KNOW... SO YOU CAN PLEASE AMANE-SAMA. ♡
HEY! BIG NEWS!!
EVERYONE!! CHECK THIS OUT!!!

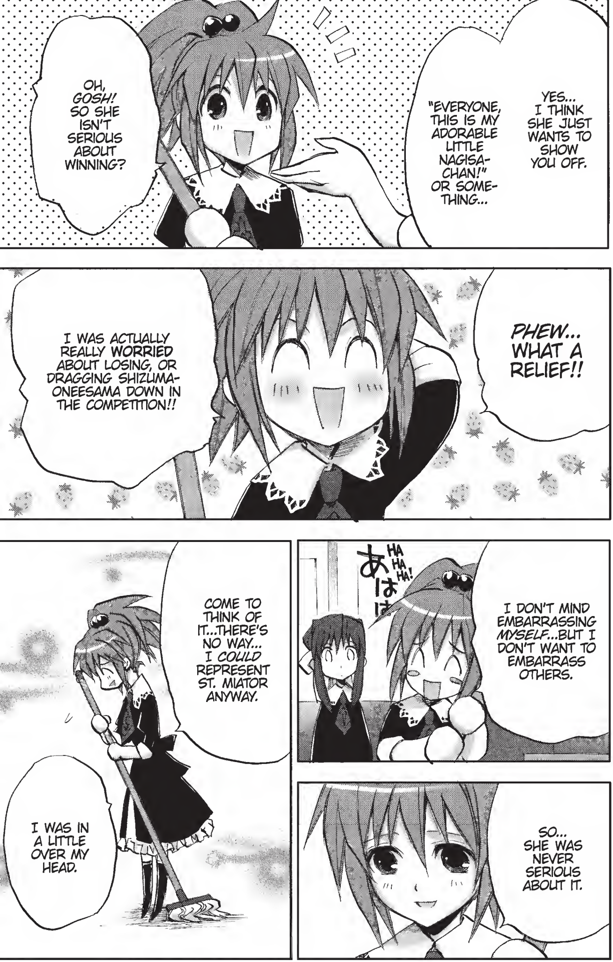

CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
St. Spica Girls' Institute:
Year 5, Class *Trois* – Otori Amane
Year 4, Class *Deux* – Kenjo Kaname
YA-YAYA-CHAN...
IS THIS REALLY IT...?
YEP, LOOKS PRETTY OFFICIAL TO ME.
GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED. SHE **HAD** TO COME OUT AND PLAY AT SOME POINT.
Year 5, Class *Trois* – Otori Amane
Year 4, Class *Deux* – Kenjo Kaname
JUST ABOUT **EVERYONE** AT SPICA WANTS AMANE-SAMA TO WIN THE TITLE OF *ÉTOILE*, TOO. IT'S JUST THAT SINCE SHE DIDN'T HAVE A PARTNER, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF SPECULATION AS TO JUST *WHO* WAS GOING TO GET CHOSEN...
I *SURE* DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE KANAME-SAMA, THOUGH. TALK ABOUT A **BOLD MOVE** BY THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

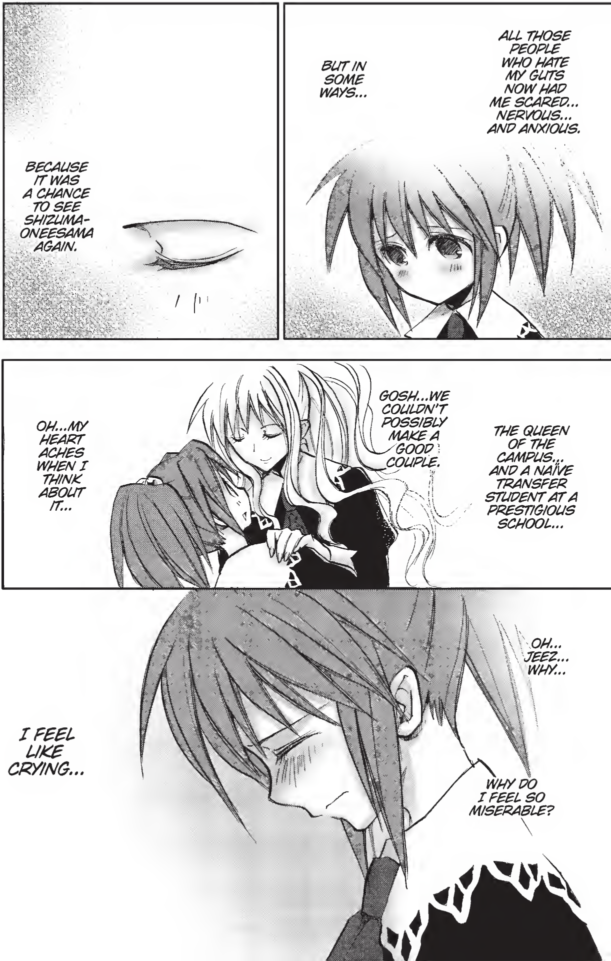

C'MON, HIKARI. LET'S CHEER HER ON AT THE COMPETITION, OKAY!
I'M *SURE* AMANE-SAMA WOULD BE ENCOURAGED BY YOUR SUPPORT.
—…
I GUESS...
HIKARI?
OH...! HIKARI-ONEE-SAMA!!
THERE YOU ARE!!
RUN RUN RUN
TSUBOMI, THE SISTERS WILL SCOLD YOU IF THEY SEE YOU RUNNING AGAIN.
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A HURRY?
I... *HUFF* I HAVE A QUESTION! *HUFF*

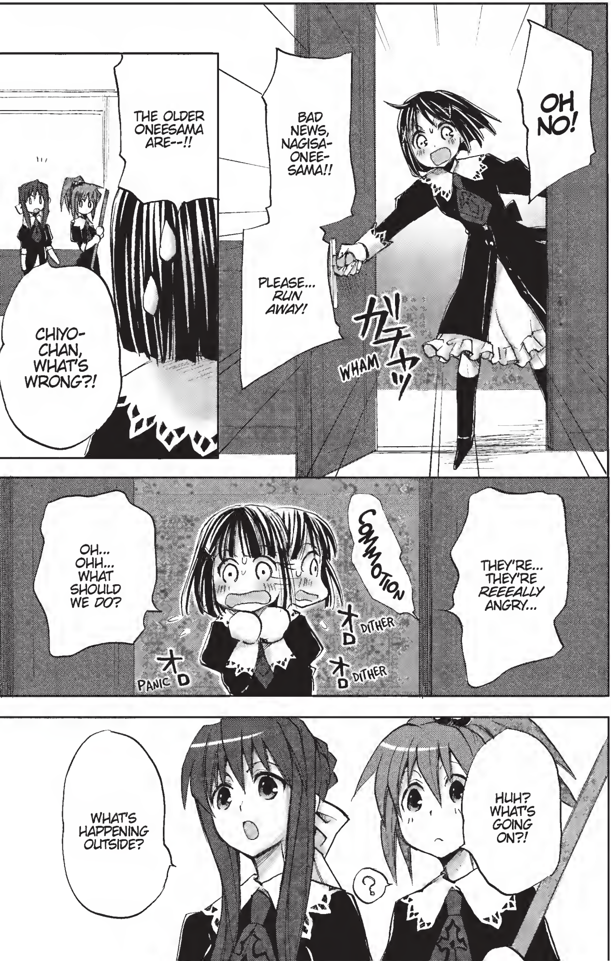

I-IS IT TRUE, HIKARI-ONEESAMA?!
HMM?
IS IT TRUE...
THAT YOU'RE GOING TO ENTER THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION WITH AMANE-SAMA?!!
—...
WHA-WHAT...?
COMMOTION
HUH?!

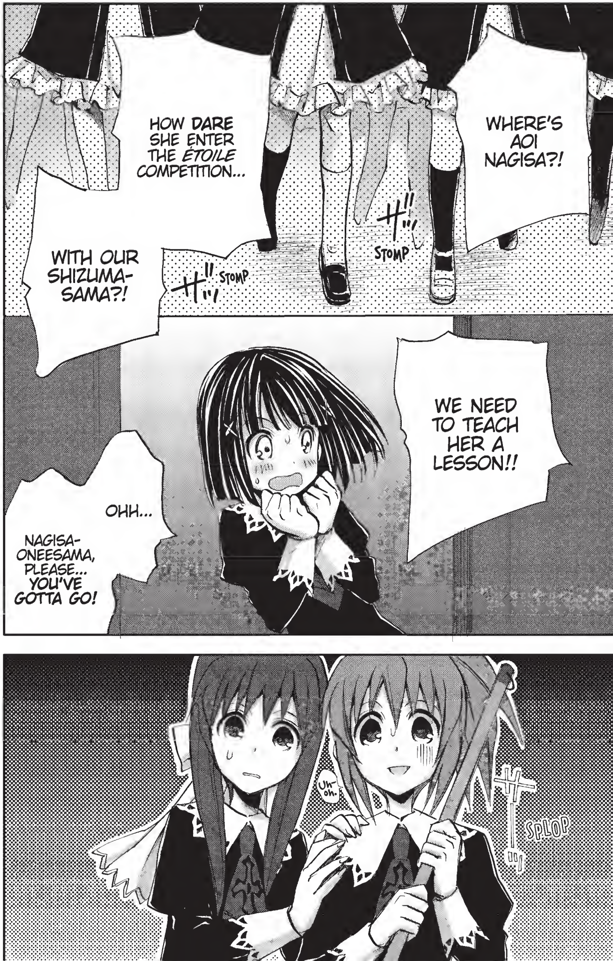

DING
DONG
St. Miator Girls' Academy:
Year 6, Snow Class – Hanazono Shizuma
Year 4, Moon Class – Aoi Nagisa
SLOP
SLOP
I'M SORRY, TAMAO-CHAN.
IT'S *MY FAULT* WE'RE STUCK WITH THESE CHORES.
SQUEEZE
THERE'S NEVER A DULL MOMENT WITH YOU, NAGISA-CHAN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR CLASSMATES WERE SO **JEALOUS** OF YOUR ENTRY INTO THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION THAT THEY PUSHED CLEANUP DUTIES ON US.
THAT'S SOMETHING I WOULD HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED WITHOUT YOU, NAGISA.

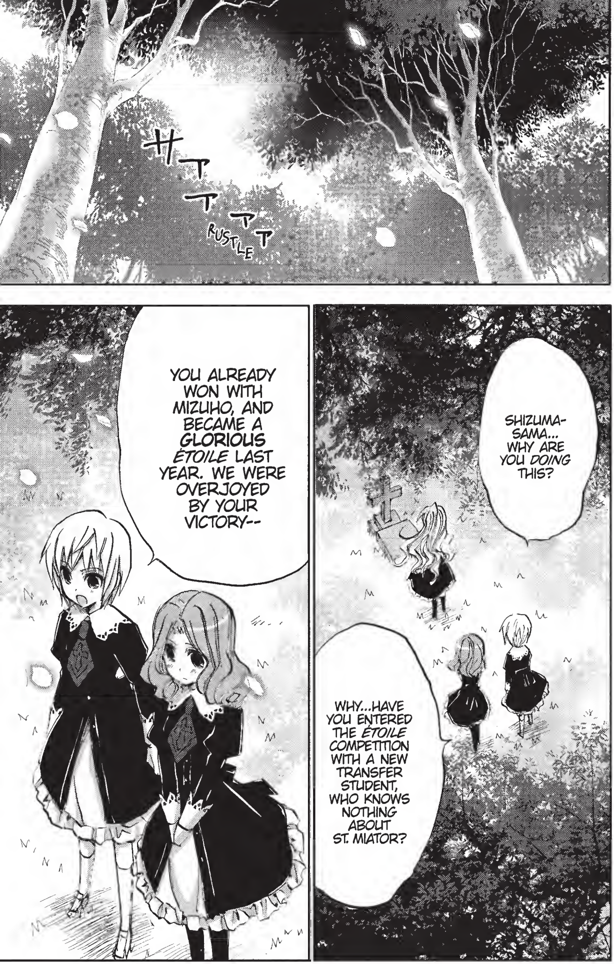

JUST WHAT IS SHIZUMA-SAMA *THINKING*, ANYWAY?
HUG
WHY IS SHE MAKING *INNOCENT* LITTLE NAGISA-CHAN ENTER THAT **BRUTAL** *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION?
YOU KNOW THE FIRST EVENT OF THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION IS USUALLY A **QUIZ** COVERING ASTRAEA BASICS, RIGHT?
THEY TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO SEE IF YOU'RE **FIT** TO REPRESENT THE THREE SCHOOLS.
MOST OF THE CONTESTANTS HAVE BEEN STUDENTS HERE SINCE KINDERGARTEN...
SO IT'S ALMOST **IMPOSSIBLE** FOR A TRANSFER STUDENT LIKE YOU TO SURVIVE THIS ROUND, NAGISA-CHAN.
AT LEAST ***HALF*** WILL BE ELIMINATED IN THIS ROUND, THOUGH.
R-REALLY?
WHICH IS WHY I BELIEVE THAT SHIZUMA-SAMA ISN'T ALL THAT SERIOUS ABOUT WINNING THE *ÉTOILE* CROWN THIS YEAR.

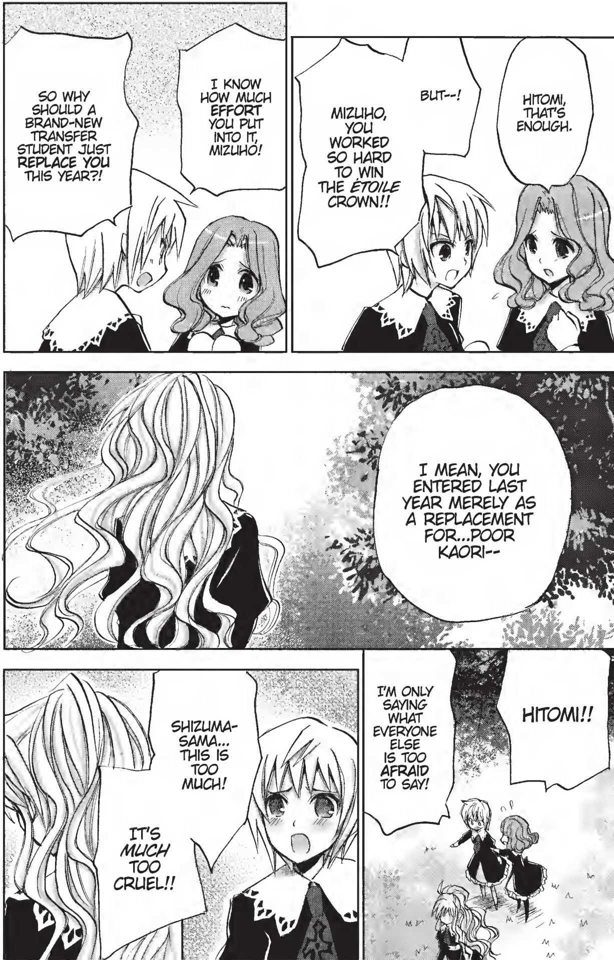

YES... I THINK SHE JUST WANTS TO SHOW YOU OFF.
"EVERYONE, THIS IS MY ADORABLE LITTLE NAGISA-CHAN!" OR SOMETHING...
OH, *GOSH!* SO SHE ISN'T SERIOUS ABOUT WINNING?
PHEW... WHAT A RELIEF!!
I WAS ACTUALLY REALLY **WORRIED** ABOUT LOSING, OR DRAGGING SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA DOWN IN THE COMPETITION!!
あはは HA HA HA!
I DON'T MIND EMBARRASSING *MYSELF*...BUT I DON'T WANT TO EMBARRASS OTHERS.
COME TO THINK OF IT...THERE'S NO WAY... I *COULD* REPRESENT ST. MIATOR ANYWAY.
I WAS IN A LITTLE OVER MY HEAD.
SO... SHE WAS NEVER SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

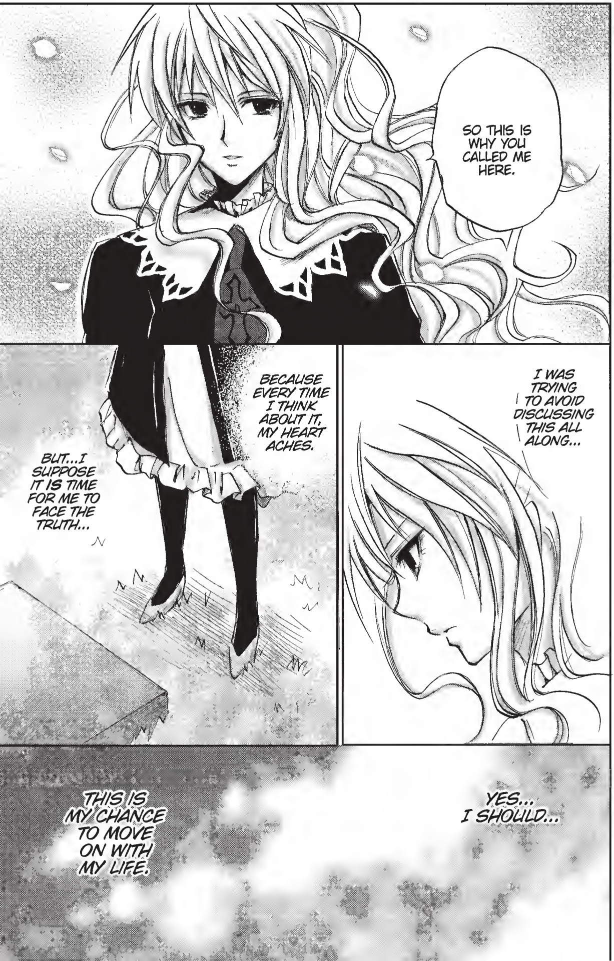

ALL THOSE PEOPLE WHO HATE MY GUTS NOW HAD ME SCARED... NERVOUS... AND ANXIOUS.
BUT IN SOME WAYS...
BECAUSE IT WAS A CHANCE TO SEE SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA AGAIN.
THE QUEEN OF THE CAMPUS... AND A NAÏVE TRANSFER STUDENT AT A PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL...
GOSH...WE COULDN'T POSSIBLY MAKE A GOOD COUPLE.
OH...MY HEART ACHES WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
OH... JEEZ... WHY...
WHY DO I FEEL SO MISERABLE?
I FEEL LIKE CRYING...

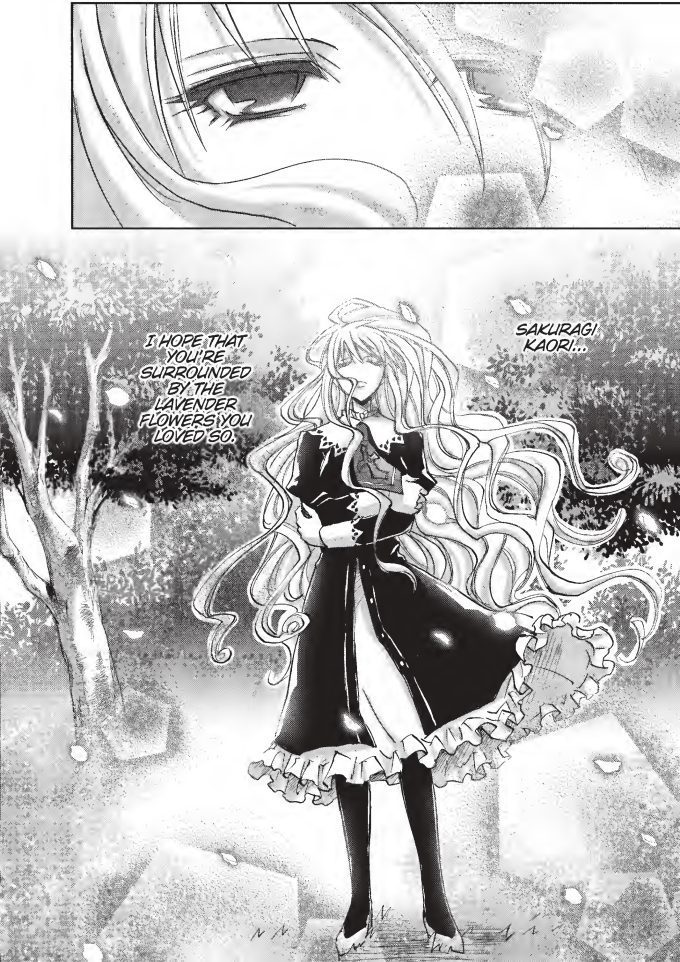

OH NO!
BAD NEWS, NAGISA-ONEESAMA!!
PLEASE... *RUN AWAY!*
ガチャッ
WHAM
CHIYO-CHAN, WHAT'S WRONG?!
THE OLDER ONEESAMA ARE--!!
THEY'RE... THEY'RE *REEEALLY* ANGRY...
COMMOTION
DITHER
DITHER
PANIC
OH... OHH... WHAT SHOULD WE *DO*?
HUH? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
?
WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE?


WHERE'S AOI NAGISA?!
HOW DARE SHE ENTER THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION...
STOMP
WITH OUR SHIZUMA-SAMA?!
STOMP
WE NEED TO TEACH HER A LESSON!!
OHH...
NAGISA-ONEESAMA, PLEASE... YOU'VE GOTTA GO!
SPLOP
Uh-oh.

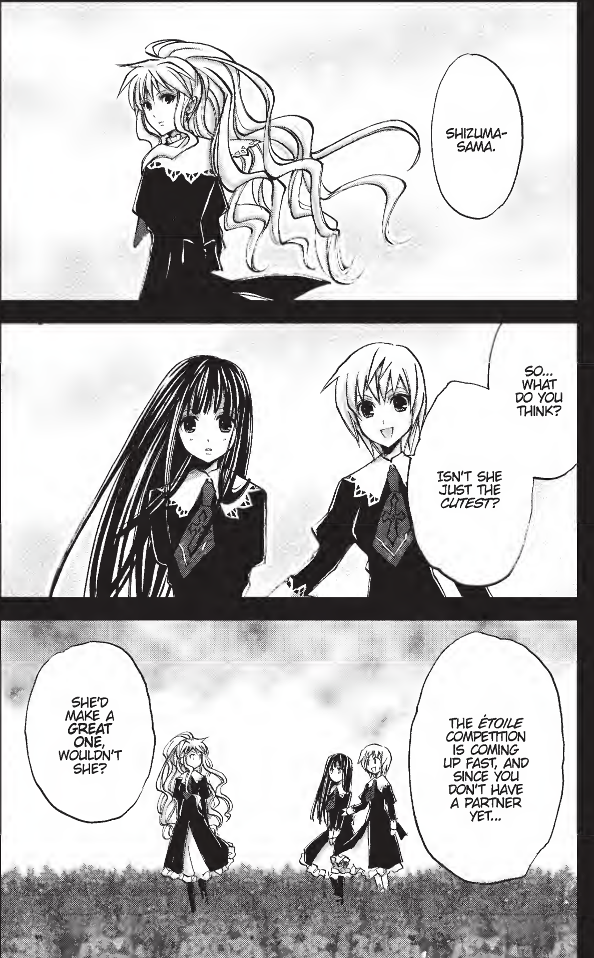

サァァァァ
RUSTLE
SHIZUMA-SAMA... WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS?
WHY...HAVE YOU ENTERED THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION WITH A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT, WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT ST. MIATOR?
YOU ALREADY WON WITH MIZUHO, AND BECAME A **GLORIOUS** *ÉTOILE* LAST YEAR. WE WERE OVERJOYED BY YOUR VICTORY--

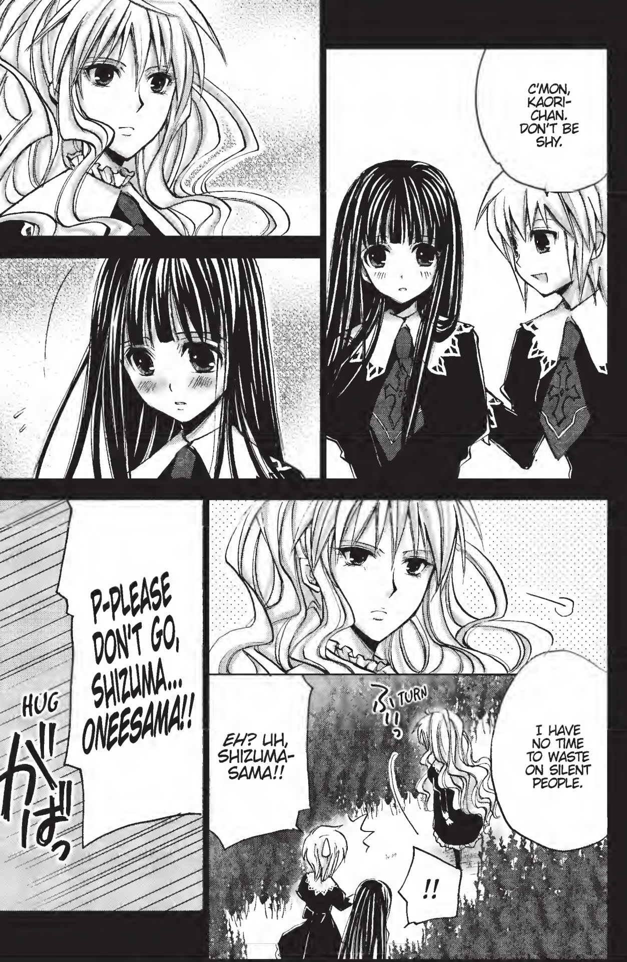

HITOMI, THAT'S ENOUGH.
BUT--!
MIZUHO, YOU WORKED SO HARD TO WIN THE *ÉTOILE* CROWN!!
I KNOW HOW MUCH **EFFORT** YOU PUT INTO IT, MIZUHO!
SO WHY SHOULD A BRAND-NEW TRANSFER STUDENT JUST **REPLACE YOU** THIS YEAR?!
I MEAN, YOU ENTERED LAST YEAR MERELY AS A REPLACEMENT FOR...POOR KAORI--
HITOMI!!
I'M ONLY SAYING WHAT EVERYONE ELSE IS TOO **AFRAID** TO SAY!
SHIZUMA-SAMA... THIS IS TOO MUCH!
IT'S *MUCH* TOO CRUEL!!

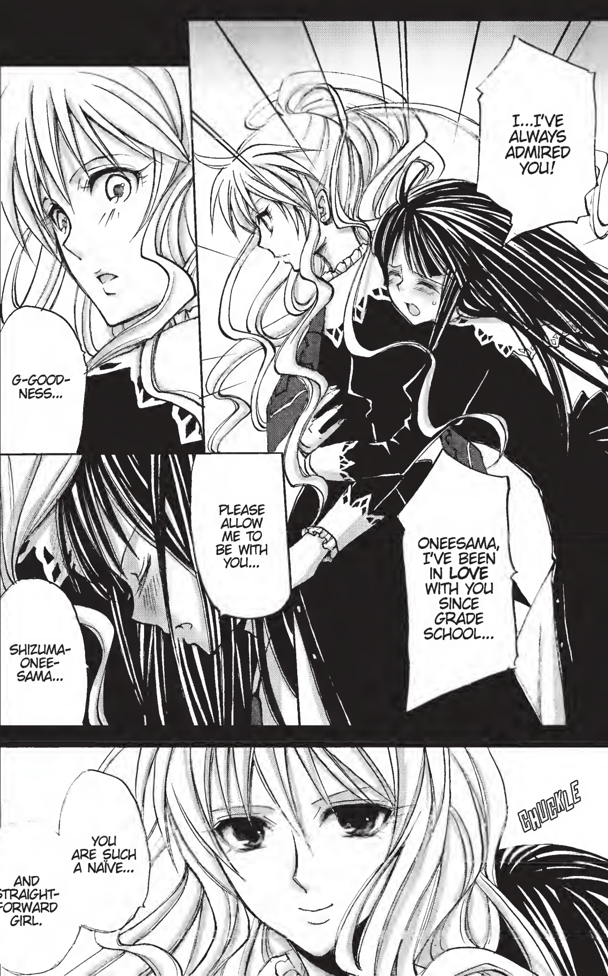

SO THIS IS WHY YOU CALLED ME HERE.
I WAS TRYING TO AVOID DISCUSSING THIS ALL ALONG...
BECAUSE EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT IT, MY HEART ACHES.
BUT...I SUPPOSE IT **IS** TIME FOR ME TO FACE THE TRUTH...
YES... I SHOULD...
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO MOVE ON WITH MY LIFE.

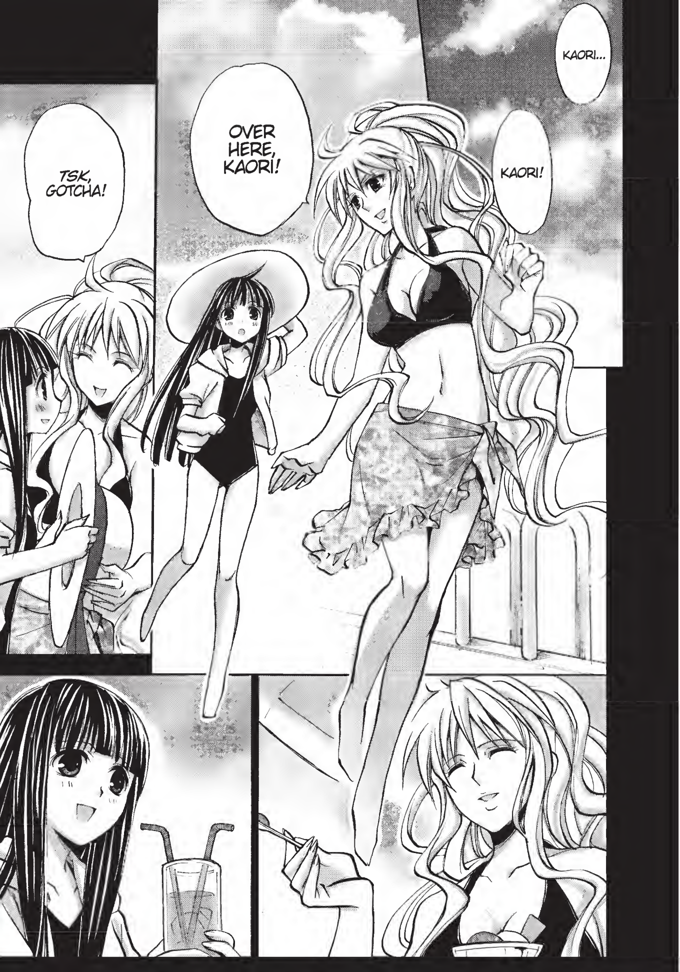

SAKURAGI KAORI...
I HOPE THAT YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY THE LAVENDER FLOWERS YOU LOVED SO.

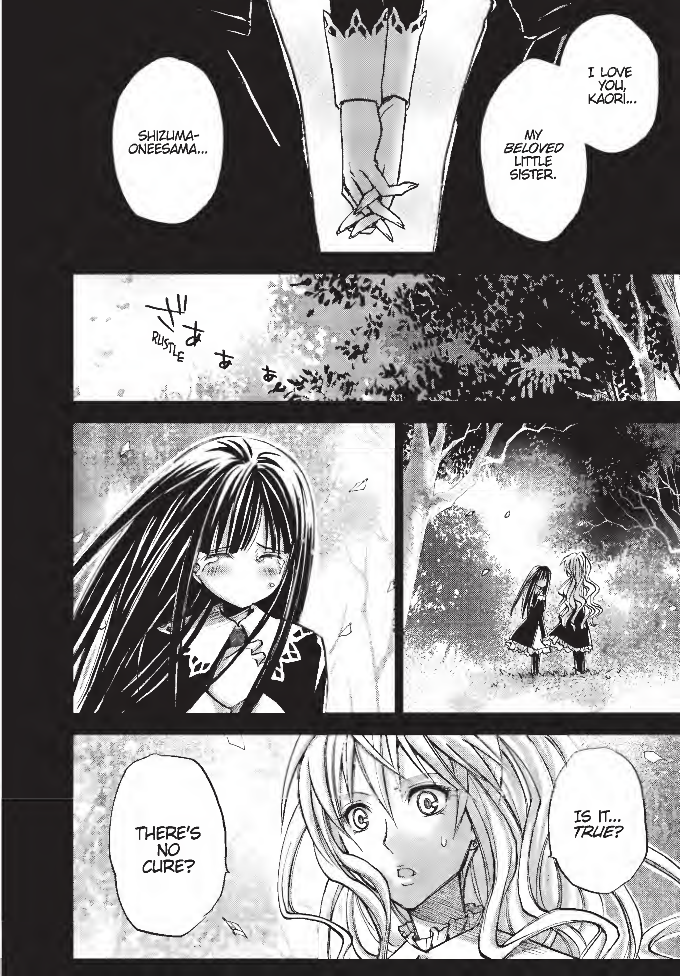
Chapter 8: Flower Memories

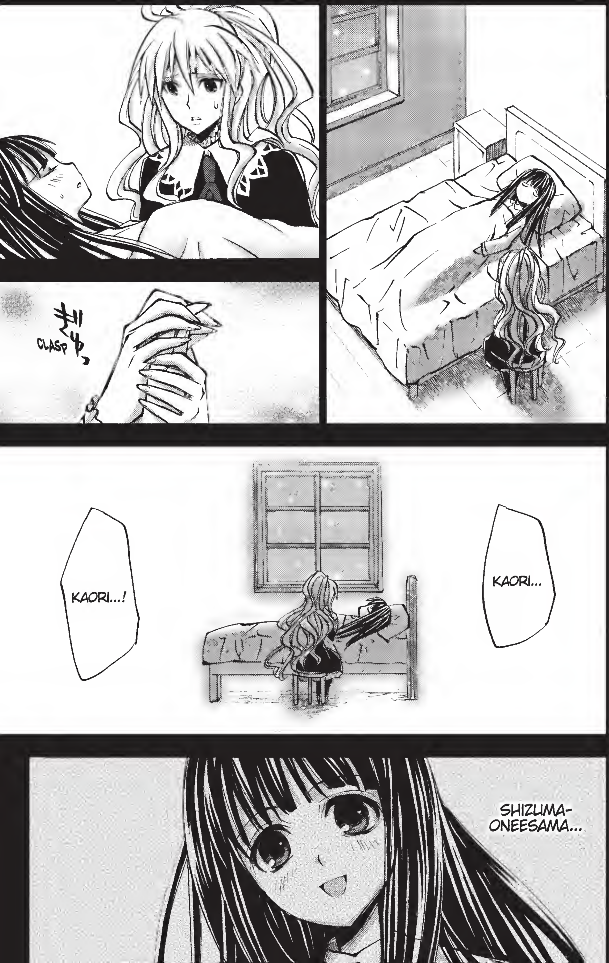

SHIZUMA-SAMA.
SO... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
ISN'T SHE JUST THE *CUTEST*?
THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION IS COMING UP FAST, AND SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE A PARTNER YET...
SHE'D MAKE A GREAT ONE, WOULDN'T SHE?

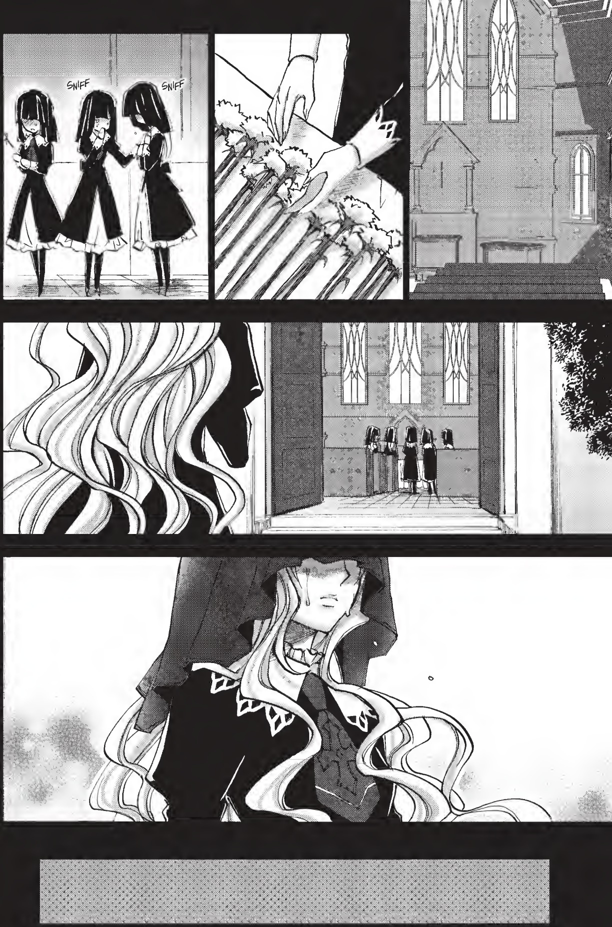

C'MON, KAORI-CHAN. DON'T BE SHY.
I HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE ON SILENT PEOPLE.
ふいっ TURN
EH? UH, SHIZUMA-SAMA!!
!!
P-PLEASE DON'T GO, SHIZUMA... ONEESAMA!!
HUG がばっ

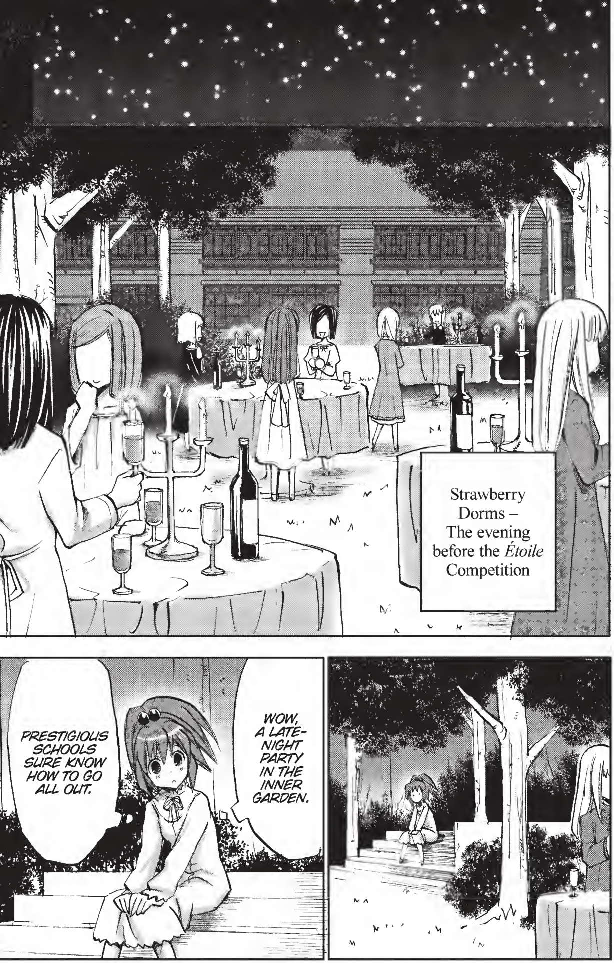

I...I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED YOU!
G-GOODNESS...
ONEESAMA, I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU SINCE GRADE SCHOOL...
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BE WITH YOU...
SHIZUMA-ONEE-SAMA...
CHUCKLE
YOU ARE SUCH A NAÏVE...
AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD GIRL.

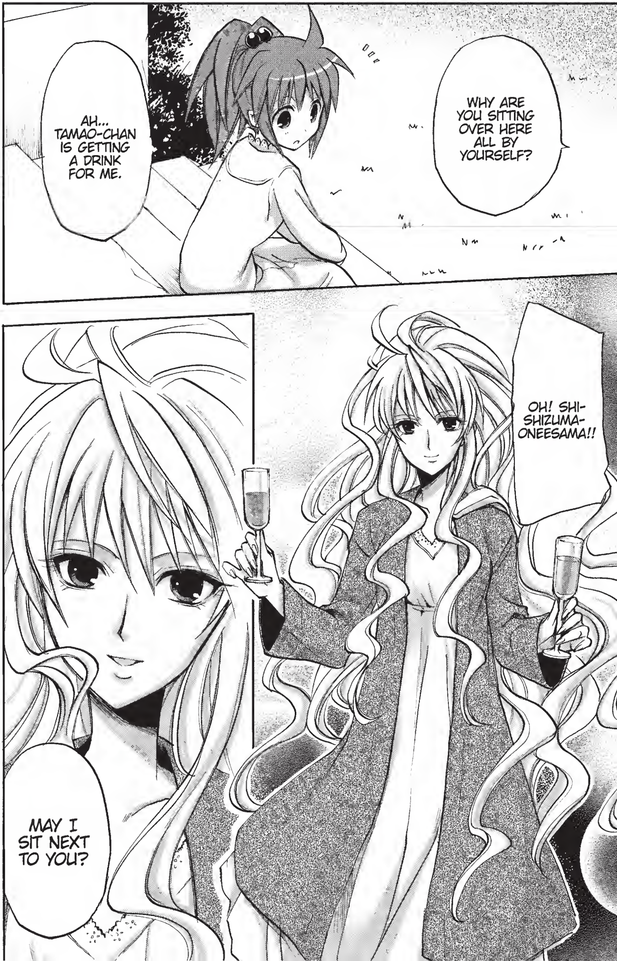

KAORI...
KAORI!
OVER HERE, KAORI!
TSK, GOTCHA!

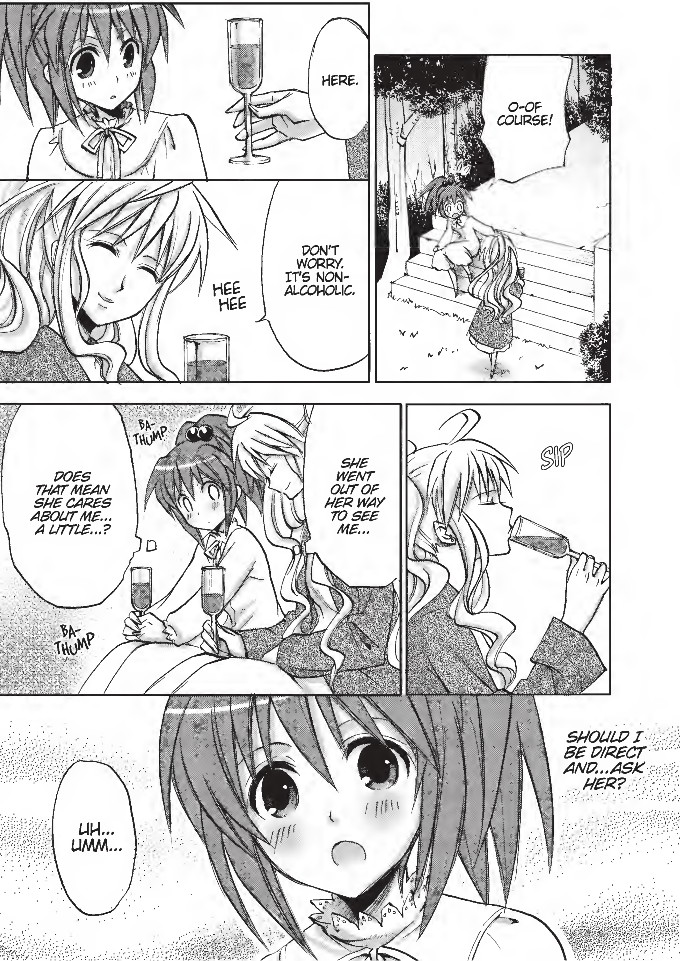

I LOVE YOU, KAORI...
MY *BELOVED* LITTLE SISTER.
SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...
ざあああ
RUSTLE
IS IT... *TRUE?*
THERE'S NO CURE?

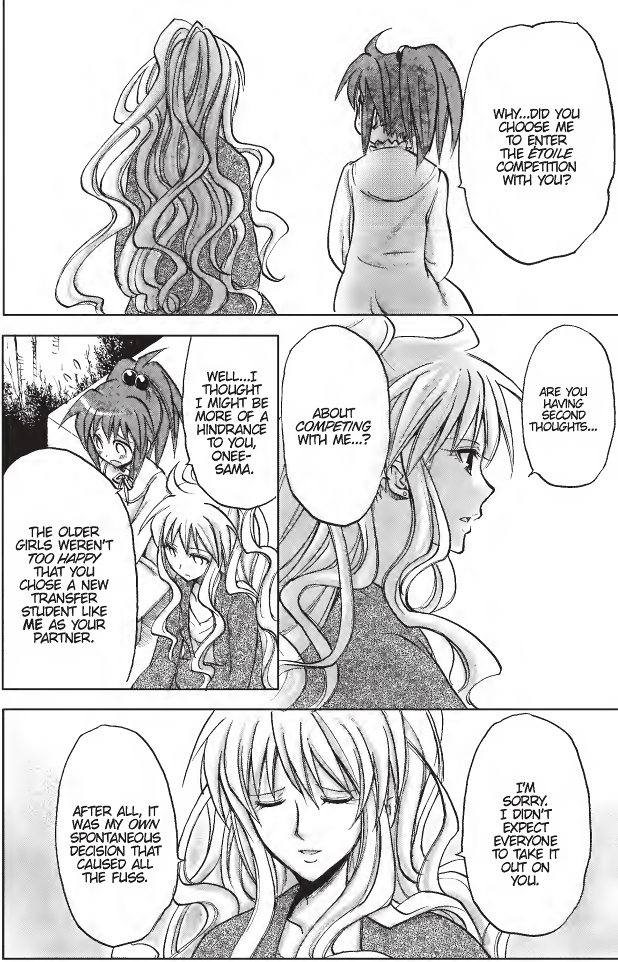

ぎゅっ
CLASP
KAORI...
KAORI...!
SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...

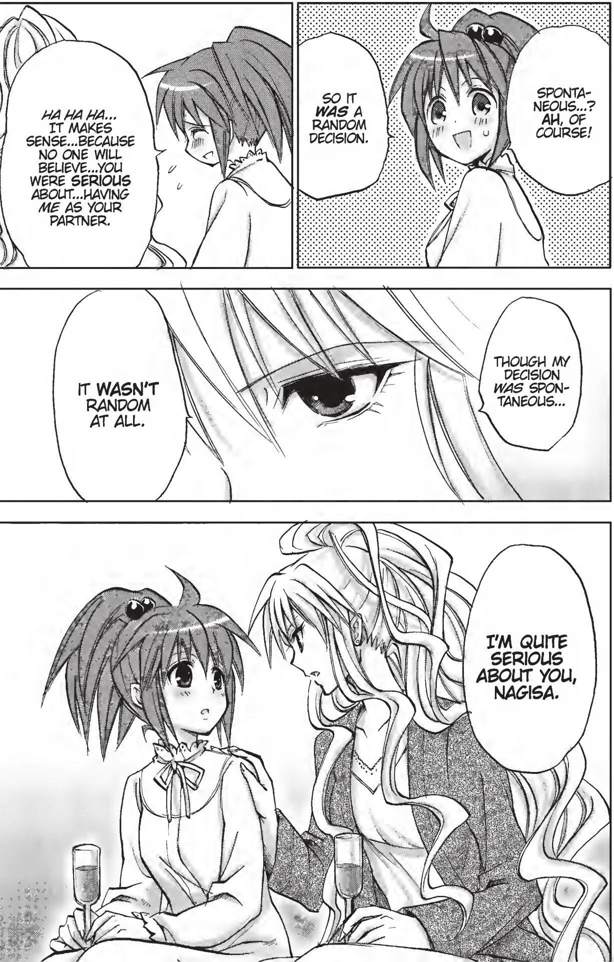

SNIFF
SNIFF

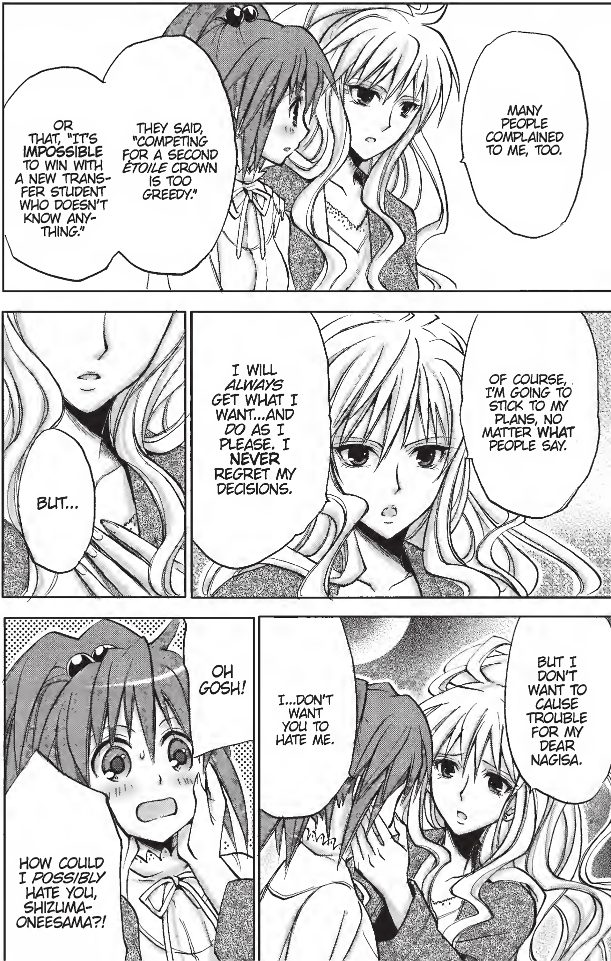

Strawberry Dorms – The evening before the *Étoile* Competition
WOW, A LATE-NIGHT PARTY IN THE INNER GARDEN.
PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS SURE KNOW HOW TO GO ALL OUT.

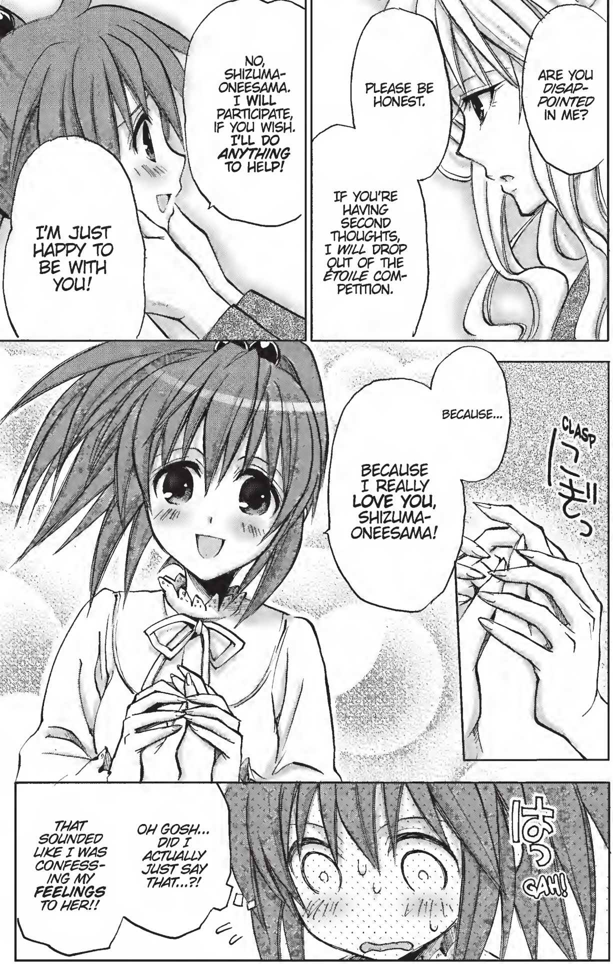

WHY ARE YOU SITTING OVER HERE ALL BY YOURSELF?
AH... TAMAO-CHAN IS GETTING A DRINK FOR ME.
OH! SHI-SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA!!
MAY I SIT NEXT TO YOU?

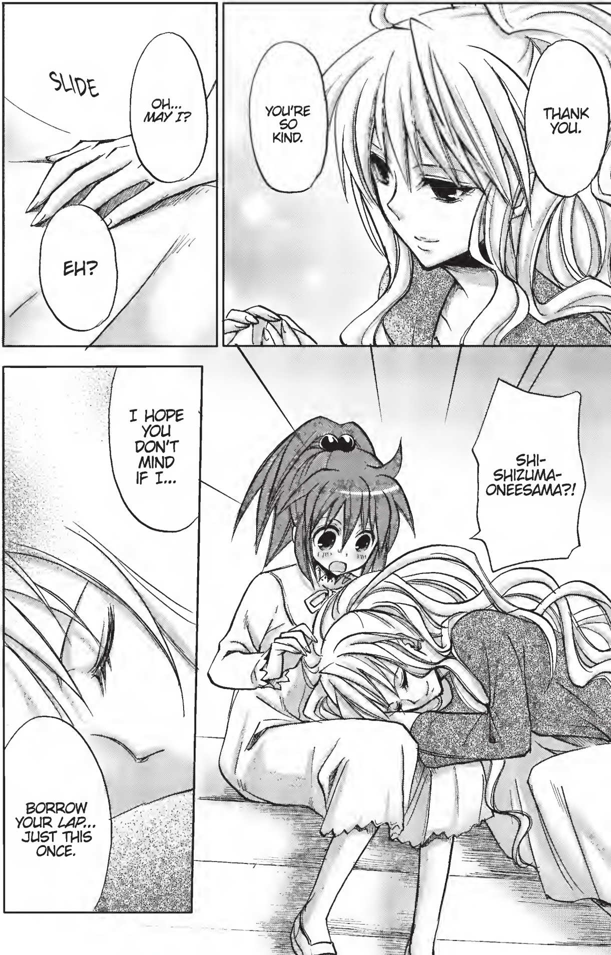

HERE.
DON'T WORRY. IT'S NON-ALCOHOLIC.
HEE HEE
O-OF COURSE!
SIP
SHE WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO SEE ME...
DOES THAT MEAN SHE CARES ABOUT ME... A LITTLE...?
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
SHOULD I BE DIRECT AND...ASK HER?
UH... UMM...

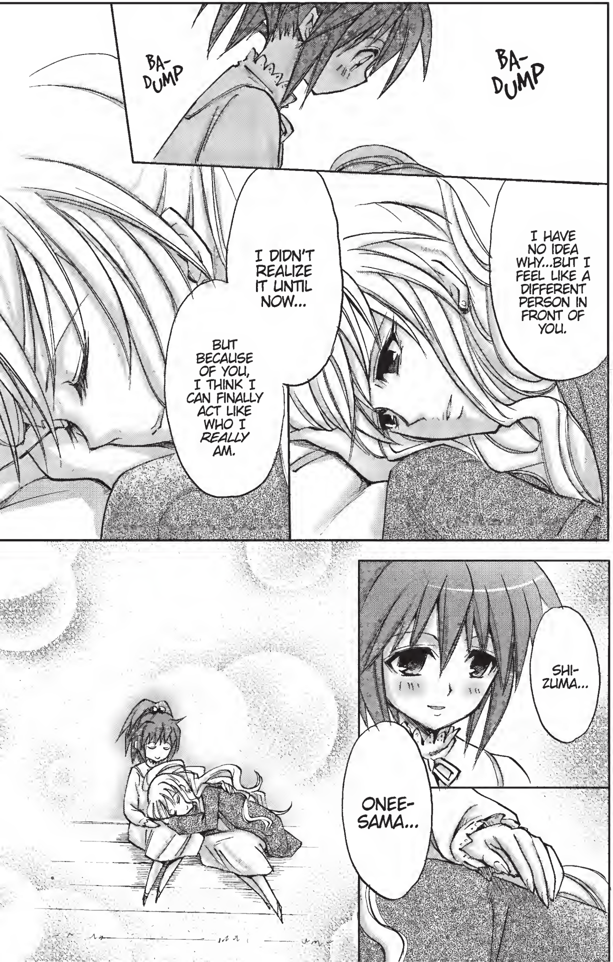

WHY...DID YOU CHOOSE ME TO ENTER THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION WITH YOU?
ARE YOU HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS...
ABOUT *COMPETING* WITH ME...?
WELL...I THOUGHT I MIGHT BE MORE OF A HINDRANCE TO YOU, ONEE-SAMA.
THE OLDER GIRLS WEREN'T *TOO HAPPY* THAT YOU CHOSE A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT LIKE ME AS YOUR PARTNER.
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T EXPECT EVERYONE TO TAKE IT OUT ON YOU.
AFTER ALL, IT WAS MY *OWN* SPONTANEOUS DECISION THAT CAUSED ALL THE FUSS.

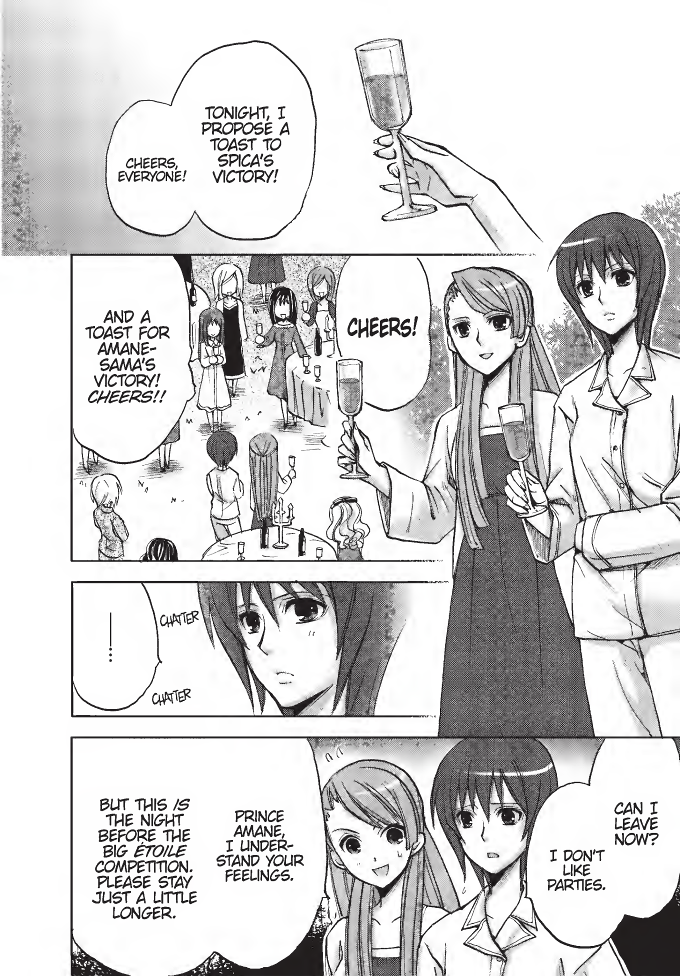

SPONTANEOUS...? AH, OF COURSE!
SO IT WAS A RANDOM DECISION.
HA HA HA... IT MAKES SENSE...BECAUSE NO ONE WILL BELIEVE...YOU WERE SERIOUS ABOUT...HAVING ME AS YOUR PARTNER.
THOUGH MY DECISION WAS SPONTANEOUS...
IT WASN'T RANDOM AT ALL.
I'M QUITE SERIOUS ABOUT YOU, NAGISA.

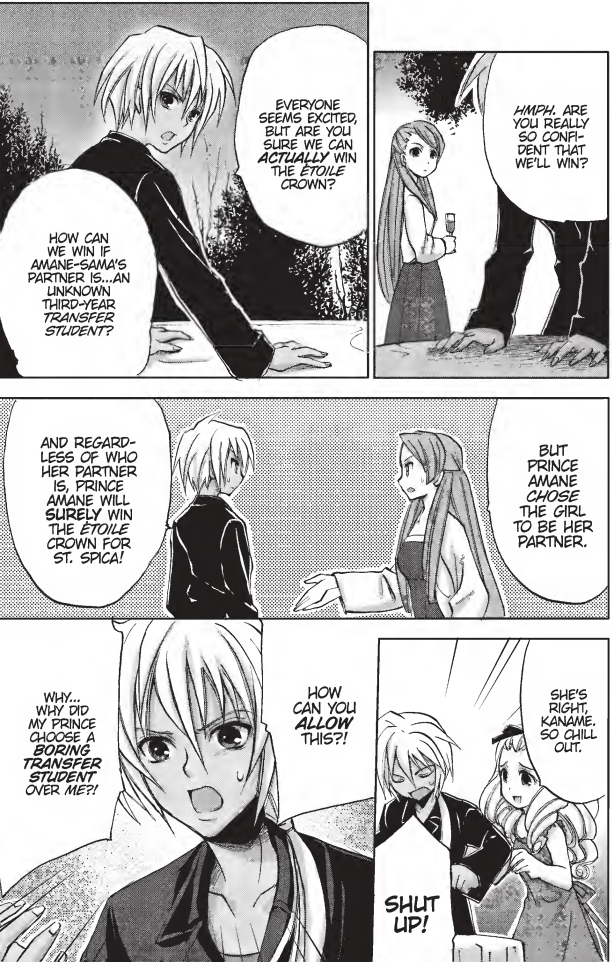

MANY PEOPLE COMPLAINED TO ME, TOO.
THEY SAID, "COMPETING FOR A SECOND *ÉTOILE* CROWN IS TOO GREEDY."
OR THAT, "IT'S **IMPOSSIBLE** TO WIN WITH A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING."
OF COURSE, I'M GOING TO STICK TO MY PLANS, NO MATTER **WHAT** PEOPLE SAY.
I WILL *ALWAYS* GET WHAT I WANT...AND *DO* AS I PLEASE. I **NEVER** REGRET MY DECISIONS.
BUT...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE FOR MY DEAR NAGISA.
I...DON'T WANT YOU TO HATE ME.
OH GOSH!
HOW COULD I *POSSIBLY* HATE YOU, SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA?!

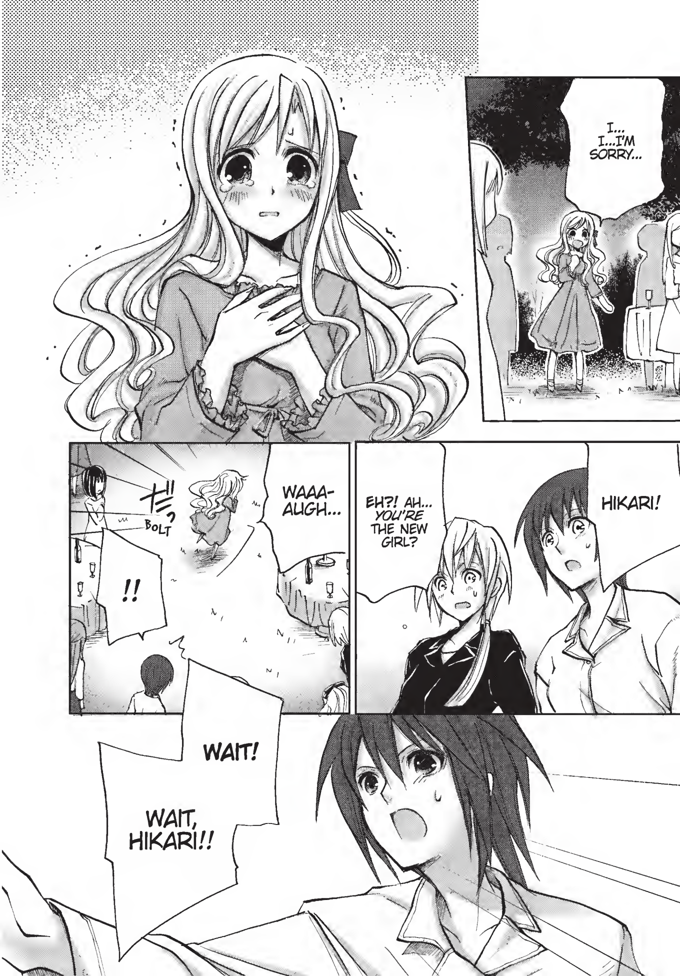

ARE YOU *DISAPPOINTED* IN ME?
PLEASE BE HONEST.
IF YOU'RE HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS, I *WILL* DROP OUT OF THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION.
NO, SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA. I WILL PARTICIPATE, IF YOU WISH. I'LL DO ***ANYTHING*** TO HELP!
I'M JUST HAPPY TO BE WITH YOU!
CLASP こぎっ
BECAUSE...
BECAUSE I REALLY **LOVE YOU**, SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA!
はっ GAH!
OH GOSH... DID I ACTUALLY JUST SAY THAT...?!
THAT SOUNDED LIKE I WAS CONFESSING MY ***FEELINGS*** *TO HER!!*

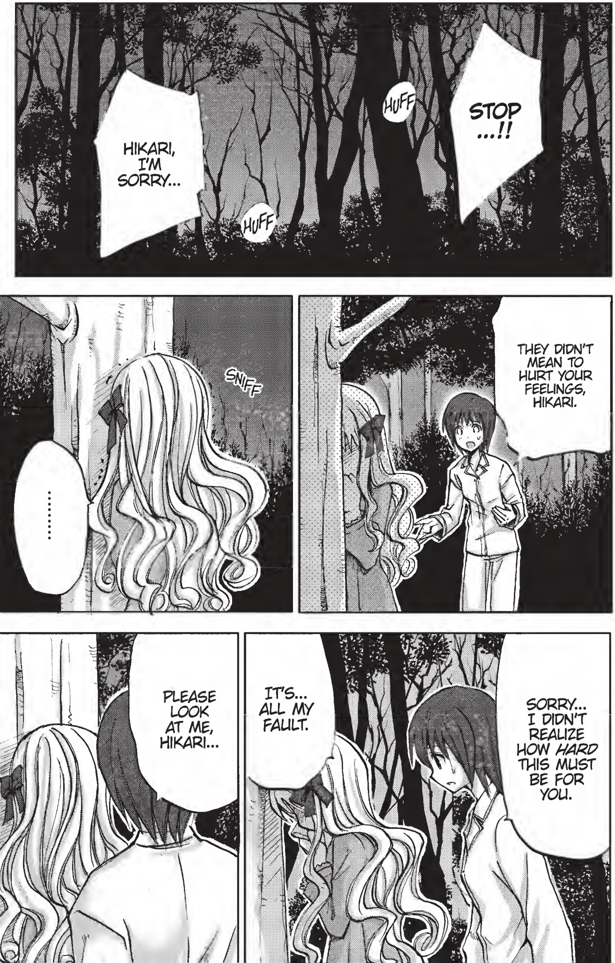

THANK YOU.
YOU'RE SO KIND.
OH... *MAY I?*
SLIDE
EH?
SHI-SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA?!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I...
BORROW YOUR *LAP*... JUST THIS ONCE.

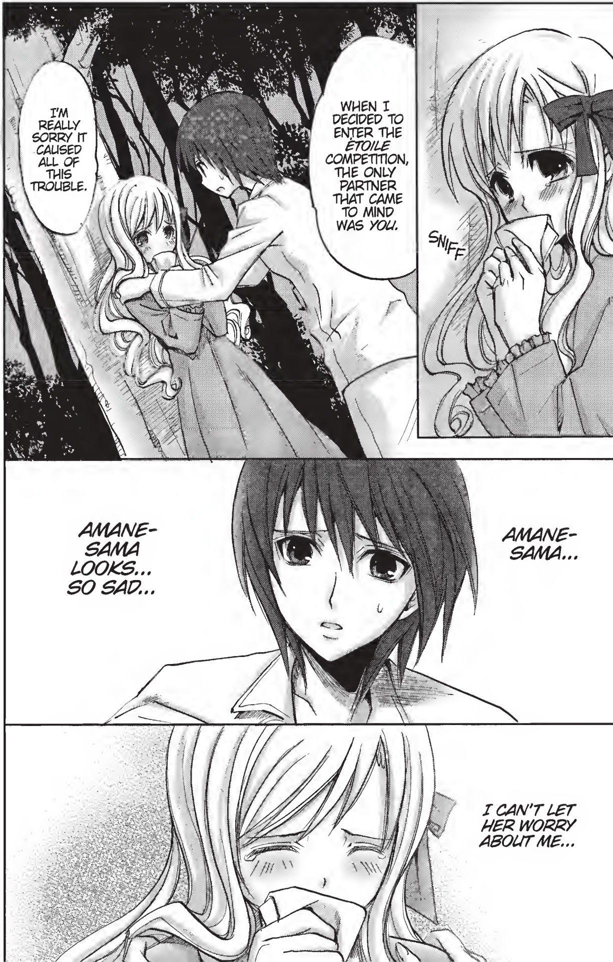

BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY...BUT I FEEL LIKE A DIFFERENT PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU.
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT UNTIL NOW...
BUT BECAUSE OF YOU, I THINK I CAN FINALLY ACT LIKE WHO I *REALLY* AM.
SHIZUMA...
ONEE-SAMA...

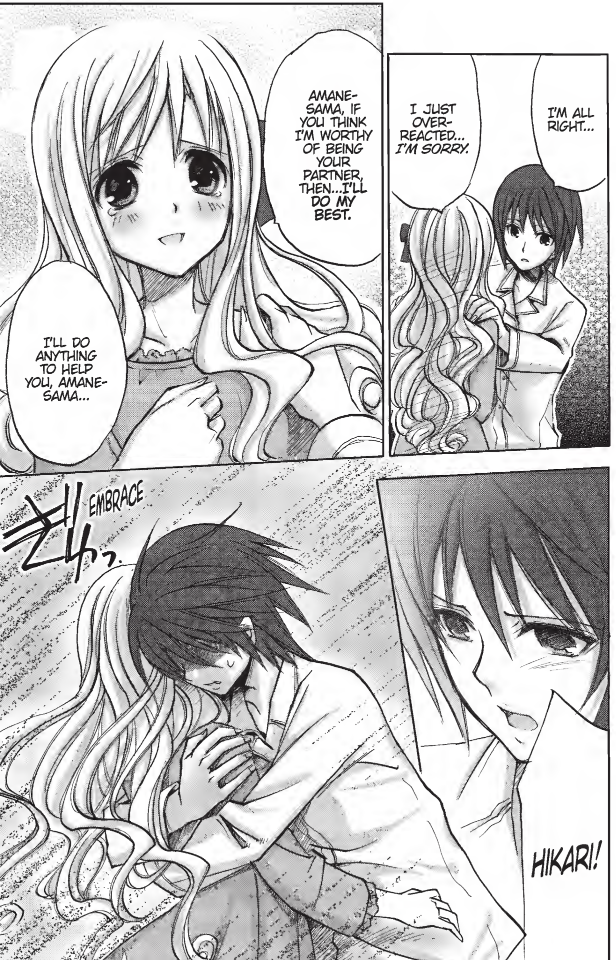

TONIGHT, I PROPOSE A TOAST TO SPICA'S VICTORY!
CHEERS, EVERYONE!
CHEERS!
AND A TOAST FOR AMANE-SAMA'S VICTORY! *CHEERS!!*
CHATTER
......
CHATTER
CAN I LEAVE NOW?
I DON'T LIKE PARTIES.
PRINCE AMANE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS.
BUT THIS *IS* THE NIGHT BEFORE THE BIG *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION. PLEASE STAY JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

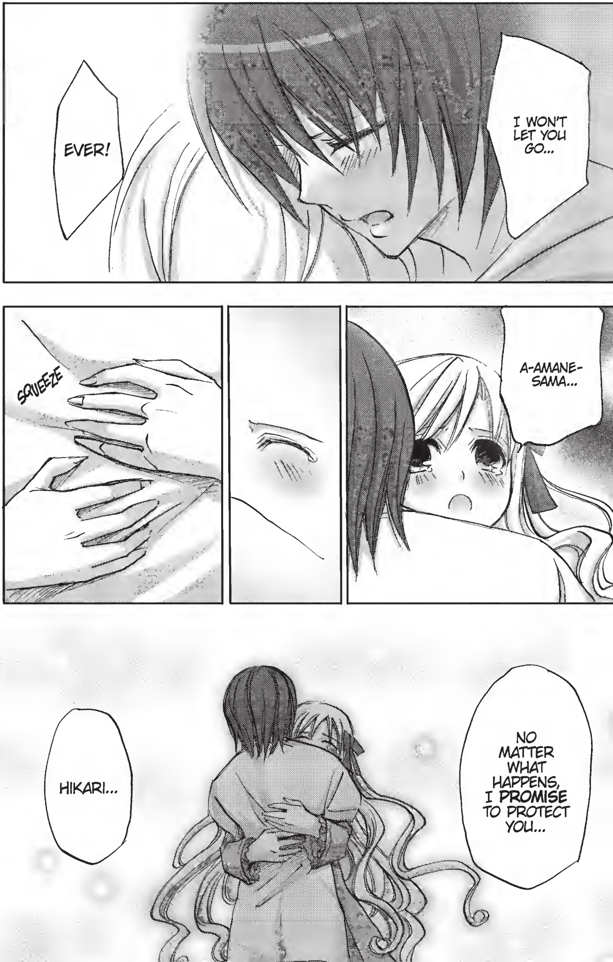

HMPH. ARE YOU REALLY SO CONFIDENT THAT WE'LL WIN?
EVERYONE SEEMS EXCITED, BUT ARE YOU SURE WE CAN *ACTUALLY* WIN THE *ÉTOILE* CROWN?
HOW CAN WE WIN IF AMANE-SAMA'S PARTNER IS...AN UNKNOWN THIRD-YEAR *TRANSFER STUDENT?*
BUT PRINCE AMANE *CHOSE* THE GIRL TO BE HER PARTNER.
AND REGARDLESS OF WHO HER PARTNER IS, PRINCE AMANE WILL **SURELY** WIN THE *ÉTOILE* CROWN FOR ST. SPICA!
SHE'S RIGHT, KANAME. SO CHILL OUT.
SHUT UP!
HOW CAN YOU *ALLOW* THIS?!
WHY... WHY DID MY PRINCE CHOOSE A *BORING TRANSFER STUDENT* OVER ME?!


I... I...I'M SORRY...
HIKARI!
EH?! AH... YOU'RE THE NEW GIRL?
WAAA-AUGH...
BOLT
!!
WAIT!
WAIT, HIKARI!!

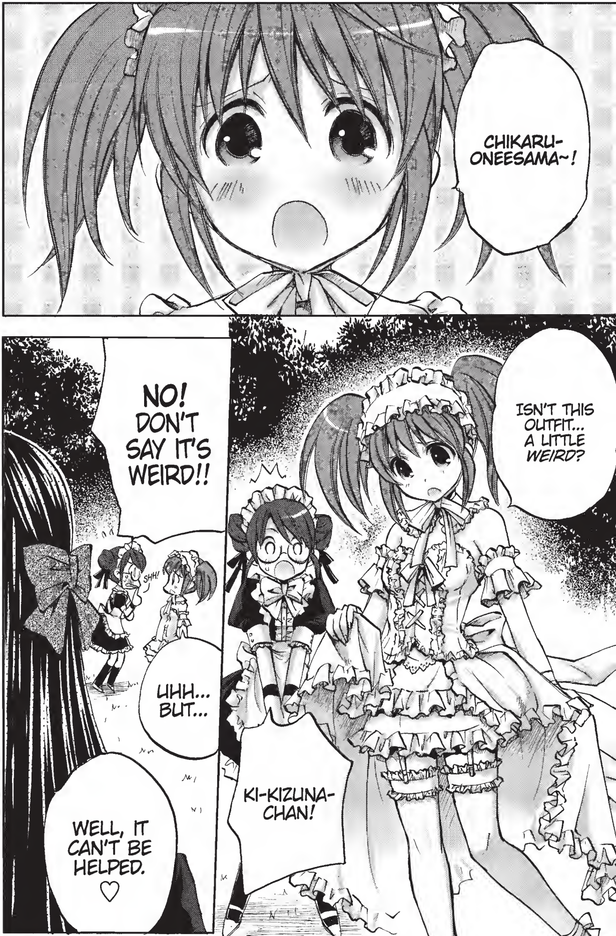

STOP ...!!
HUFF
HUFF
HIKARI, I'M SORRY...
THEY DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS, HIKARI.
SNIFF
....
SORRY... I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW *HARD* THIS MUST BE FOR YOU.
IT'S... ALL MY FAULT.
PLEASE LOOK AT ME, HIKARI...

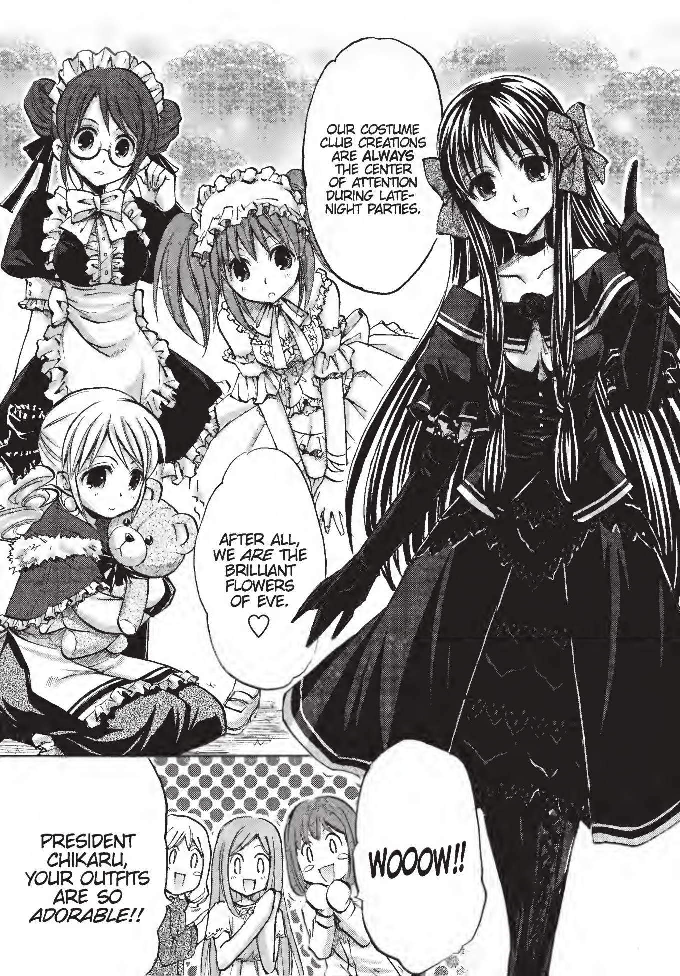

SNIFF
WHEN I DECIDED TO ENTER THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION, THE ONLY PARTNER THAT CAME TO MIND WAS *YOU.*
I'M REALLY SORRY IT CAUSED ALL OF THIS TROUBLE.
AMANE-SAMA...
AMANE-SAMA LOOKS... SO SAD...
I CAN'T LET HER WORRY ABOUT ME...

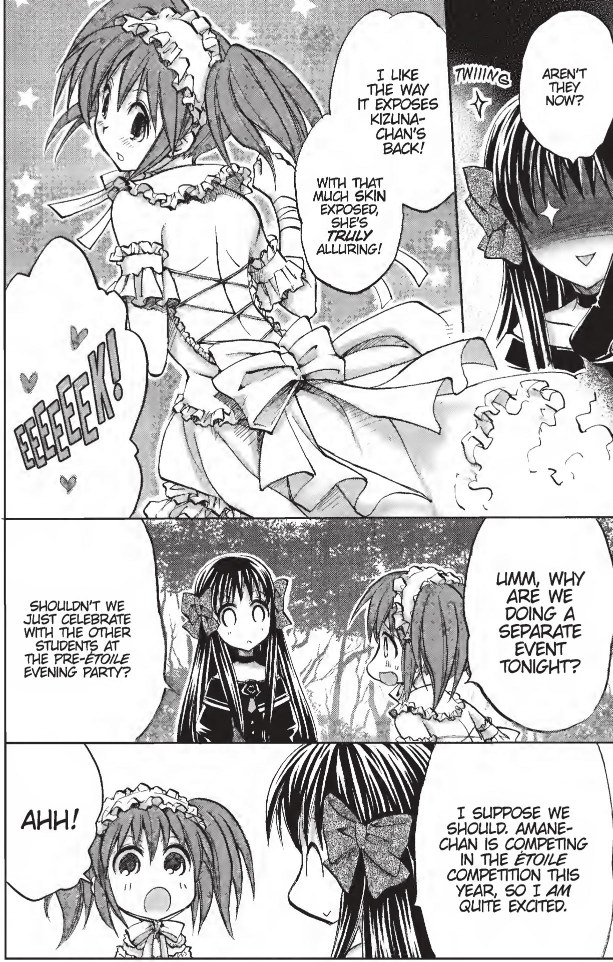

I'M ALL RIGHT...
I JUST OVER-REACTED... *I'M SORRY.*
AMANE-SAMA, IF YOU THINK I'M WORTHY OF BEING YOUR PARTNER, THEN...I'LL DO MY BEST.
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO HELP YOU, AMANE-SAMA...
HIKARI!
ぎゅっ
EMBRACE

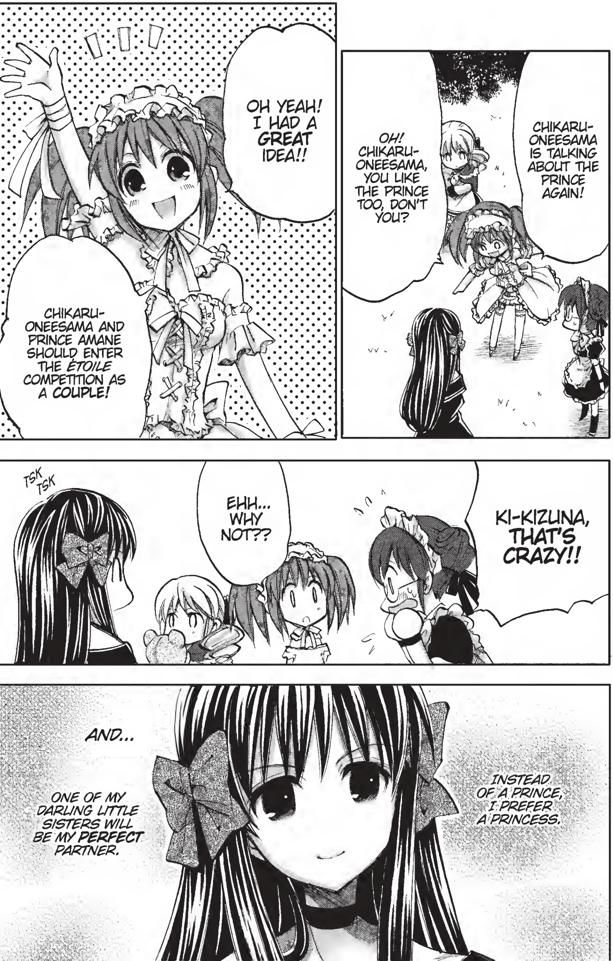

I WON'T LET YOU GO...
EVER!
A-AMANE-SAMA...
SQUEEZE
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I **PROMISE** TO PROTECT YOU...
HIKARI...

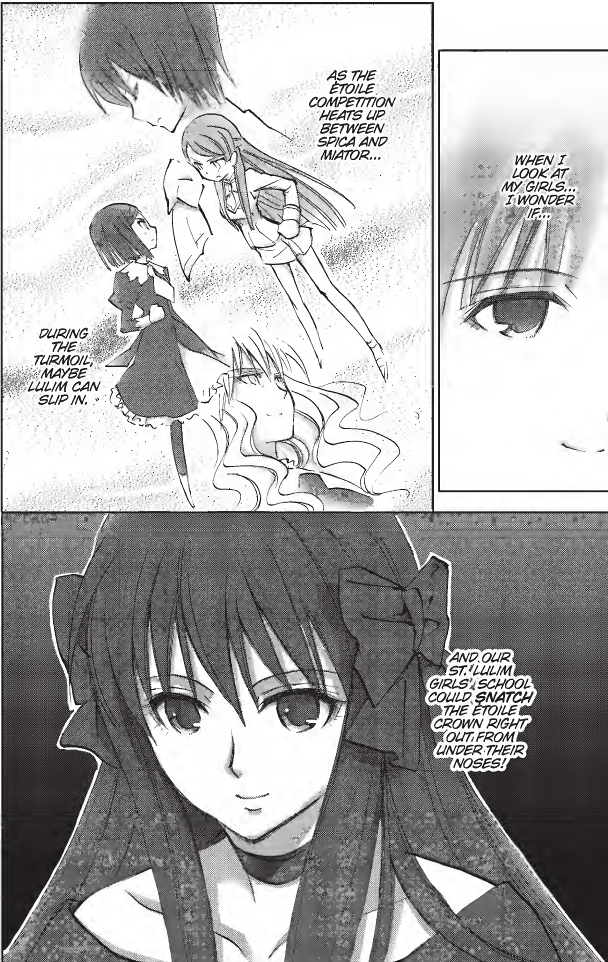
Chapter 9: The Truth Behind Étoile

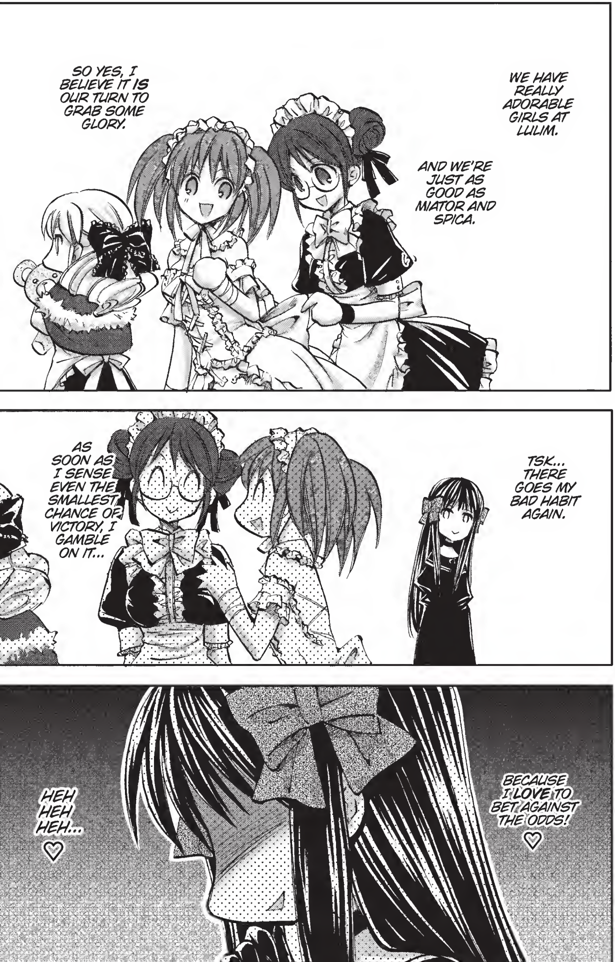

CHIKARU-ONEESAMA~!
ISN'T THIS OUTFIT... A LITTLE *WEIRD?*
NO! DON'T SAY IT'S WEIRD!!
SHH!
UHH... BUT...
KI-KIZUNA-CHAN!
WELL, IT CAN'T BE HELPED. ♡

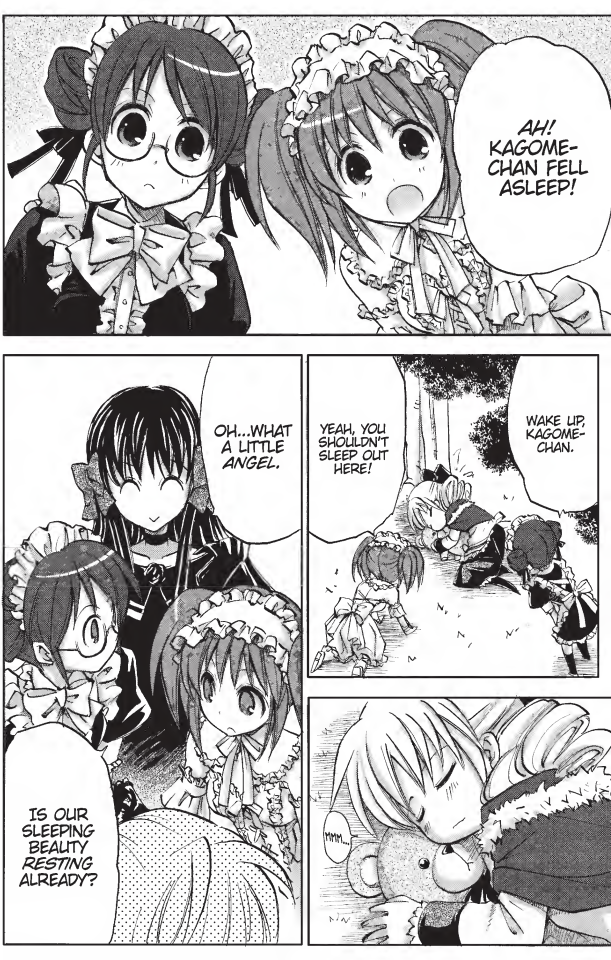

OUR COSTUME CLUB CREATIONS ARE **ALWAYS** THE CENTER OF ATTENTION DURING LATE-NIGHT PARTIES.
AFTER ALL, WE *ARE* THE BRILLIANT FLOWERS OF EVE. ♡
WOOOW!!
PRESIDENT CHIKARU, YOUR OUTFITS ARE SO *ADORABLE!!*

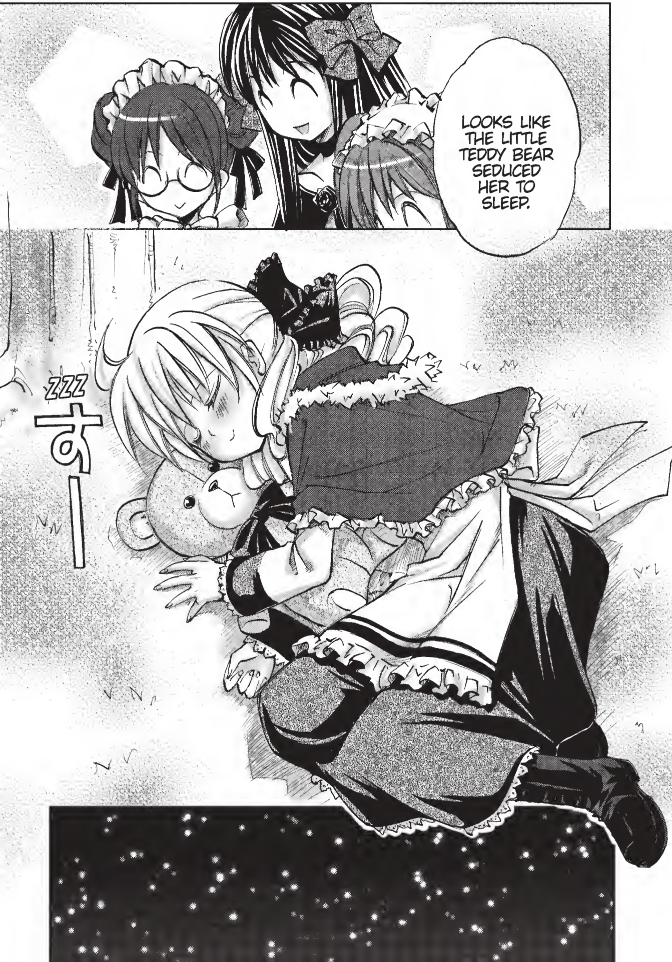

AREN'T THEY NOW?
TWIIING
I LIKE THE WAY IT EXPOSES KIZUNA-CHAN'S BACK!
WITH THAT MUCH SKIN EXPOSED, SHE'S *TRULY* ALLURING!
EEEEEEK!
UMM, WHY ARE WE DOING A SEPARATE EVENT TONIGHT?
SHOULDN'T WE JUST CELEBRATE WITH THE OTHER STUDENTS AT THE PRE-*ÉTOILE* EVENING PARTY?
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD. AMANE-CHAN IS COMPETING IN THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION THIS YEAR, SO I *AM* QUITE EXCITED.
AHH!

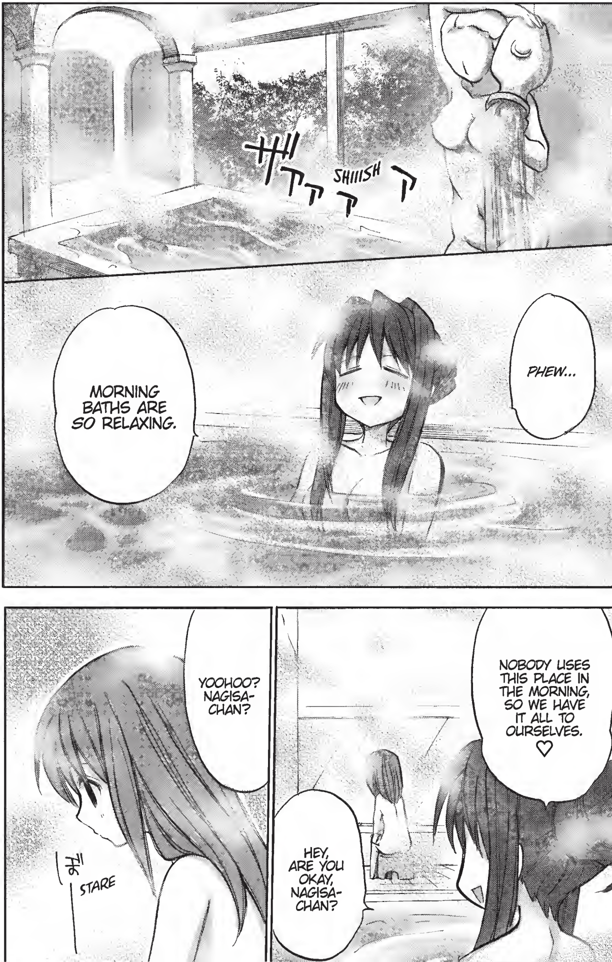

CHIKARU-ONEESAMA IS TALKING ABOUT THE PRINCE AGAIN!
OH! CHIKARU-ONEESAMA, YOU LIKE THE PRINCE TOO, DON'T YOU?
OH YEAH! I HAD A GREAT IDEA!!
CHIKARU-ONEESAMA AND PRINCE AMANE SHOULD ENTER THE ÉTOILE COMPETITION AS A COUPLE!
KI-KIZUNA, THAT'S CRAZY!!
EHH... WHY NOT??
TSK TSK
INSTEAD OF A PRINCE, I PREFER A PRINCESS.
AND...
ONE OF MY DARLING LITTLE SISTERS WILL BE MY PERFECT PARTNER.

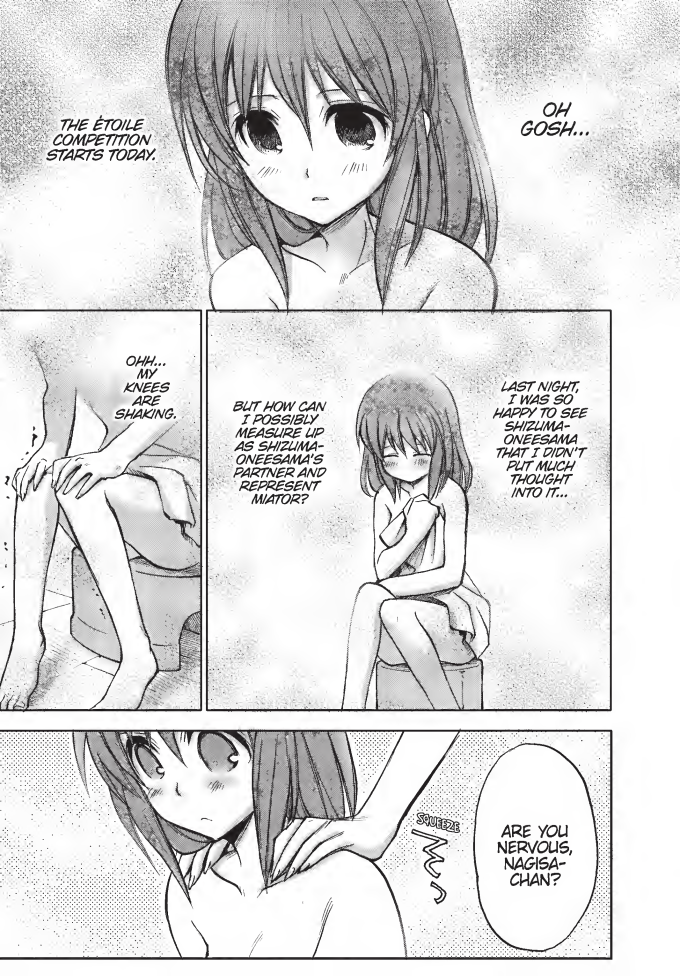

WHEN I LOOK AT MY GIRLS... I WONDER IF...
AS THE ÉTOILE COMPETITION HEATS UP BETWEEN SPICA AND MIATOR...
DURING THE TURMOIL, MAYBE LULIM CAN SLIP IN.
AND OUR ST. LULIM GIRLS' SCHOOL COULD SNATCH THE ÉTOILE CROWN RIGHT OUT FROM UNDER THEIR NOSES!

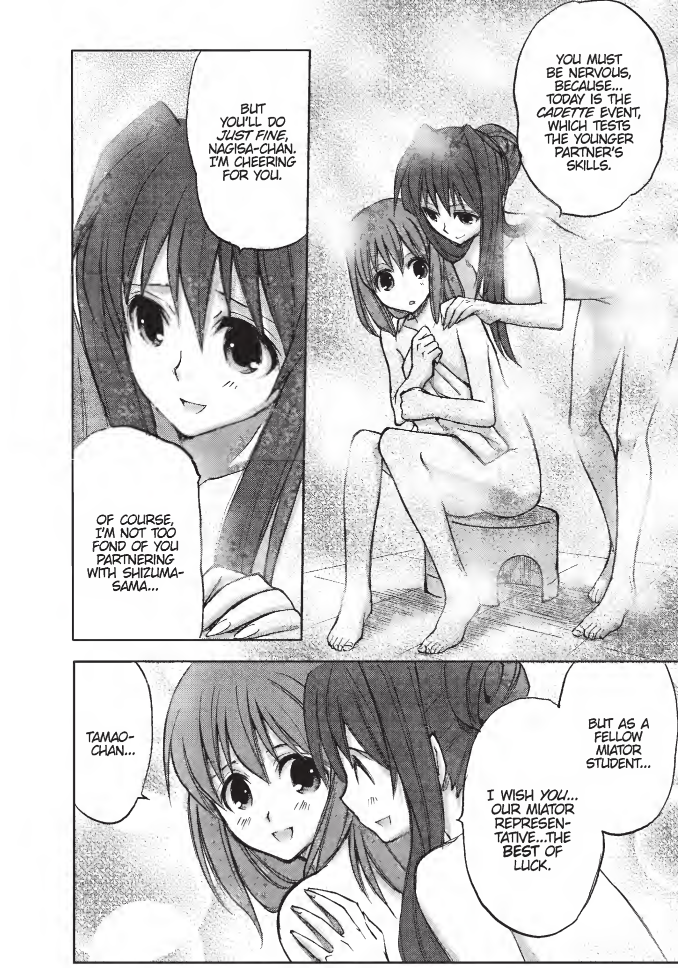

WE HAVE REALLY ADORABLE GIRLS AT LULIM.
AND WE'RE JUST AS GOOD AS MIATOR AND SPICA.
SO YES, I BELIEVE IT **IS** OUR TURN TO GRAB SOME GLORY.
TSK... THERE GOES MY BAD HABIT AGAIN.
AS SOON AS I SENSE EVEN THE SMALLEST CHANCE OF VICTORY, I GAMBLE ON IT...
BECAUSE I **LOVE** TO BET AGAINST THE ODDS! ♡
HEH HEH HEH... ♡

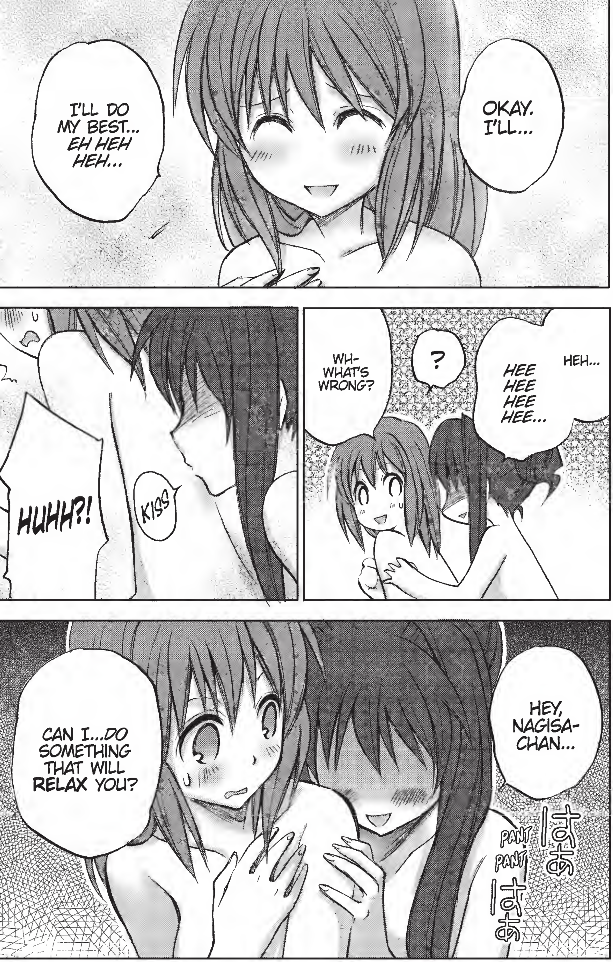

AH! KAGOME-CHAN FELL ASLEEP!
WAKE UP, KAGOME-CHAN.
YEAH, YOU SHOULDN'T SLEEP OUT HERE!
MMM...
OH...WHAT A LITTLE *ANGEL.*
IS OUR SLEEPING BEAUTY *RESTING* ALREADY?

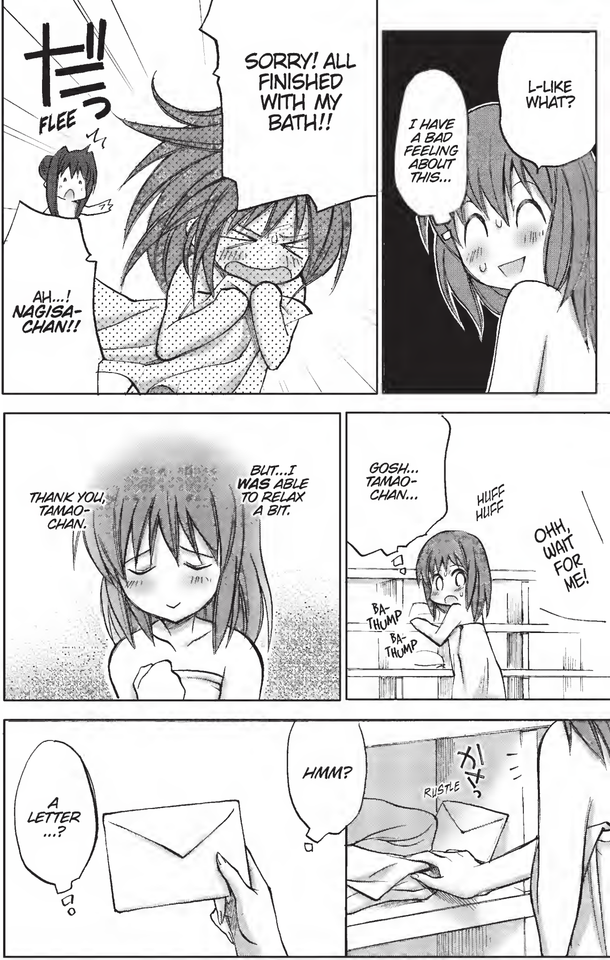

LOOKS LIKE THE LITTLE TEDDY BEAR SEDUCED HER TO SLEEP.
ZZZ
すー

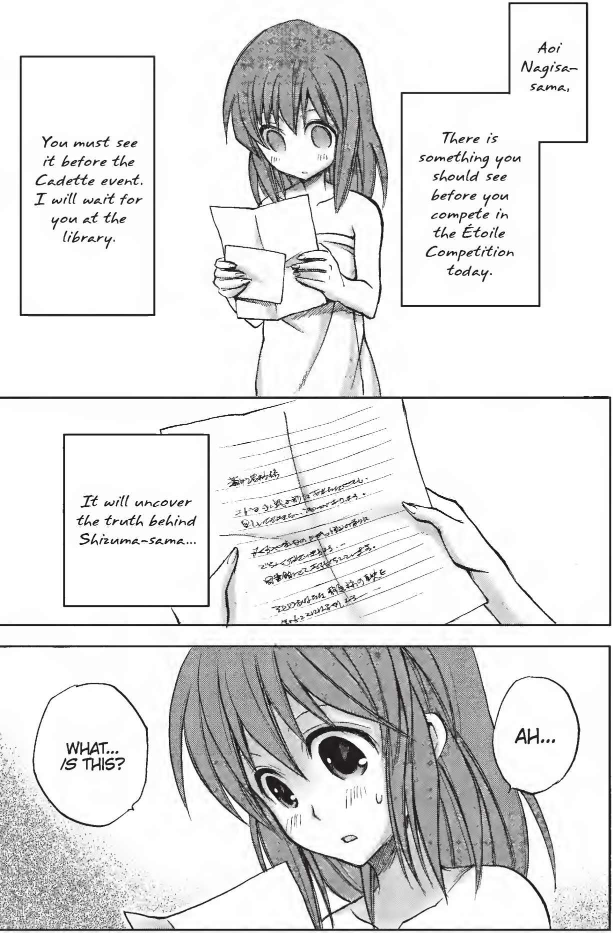

ザァァァァ
SHIIISH
PHEW...
MORNING BATHS ARE SO RELAXING.
NOBODY USES THIS PLACE IN THE MORNING, SO WE HAVE IT ALL TO OURSELVES. ♡
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY, NAGISA-CHAN?
YOOHOO? NAGISA-CHAN?
じー
STARE

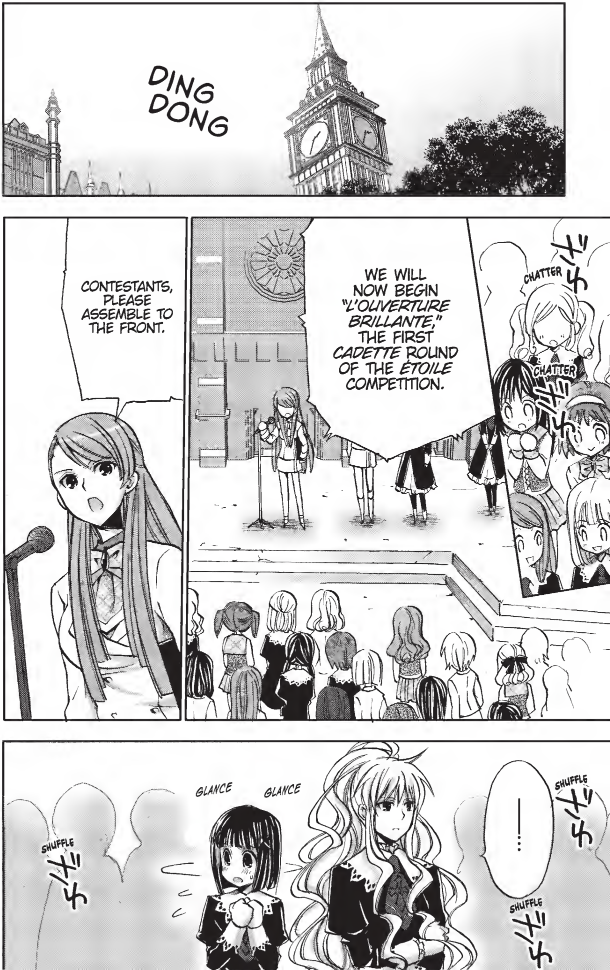

OH GOSH...
THE ÉTOILE COMPETITION STARTS TODAY.
LAST NIGHT, I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA THAT I DIDN'T PUT MUCH THOUGHT INTO IT...
BUT HOW CAN I POSSIBLY MEASURE UP AS SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA'S PARTNER AND REPRESENT MIATOR?
OHH... MY KNEES ARE SHAKING.
ARE YOU NERVOUS, NAGISA-CHAN?
SQUEEZE

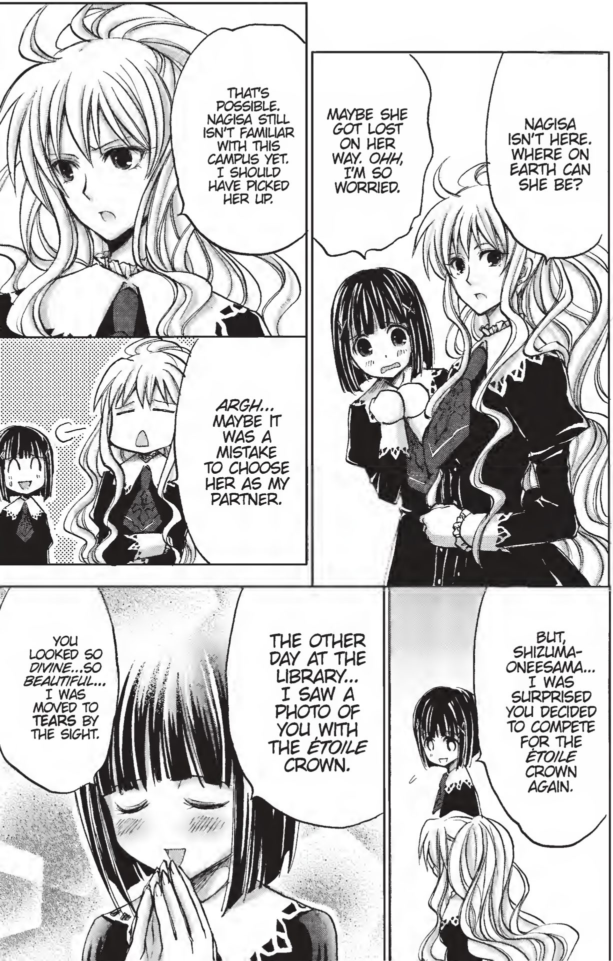

YOU MUST BE NERVOUS, BECAUSE... TODAY IS THE *CADETTE* EVENT, WHICH TESTS THE YOUNGER PARTNER'S SKILLS.
BUT YOU'LL DO *JUST FINE*, NAGISA-CHAN. I'M CHEERING FOR YOU.
OF COURSE, I'M NOT TOO FOND OF YOU PARTNERING WITH SHIZUMA-SAMA...
BUT AS A FELLOW MIATOR STUDENT...
I WISH *YOU*... OUR MIATOR REPRESENTATIVE...THE BEST OF LUCK.
TAMAO-CHAN...

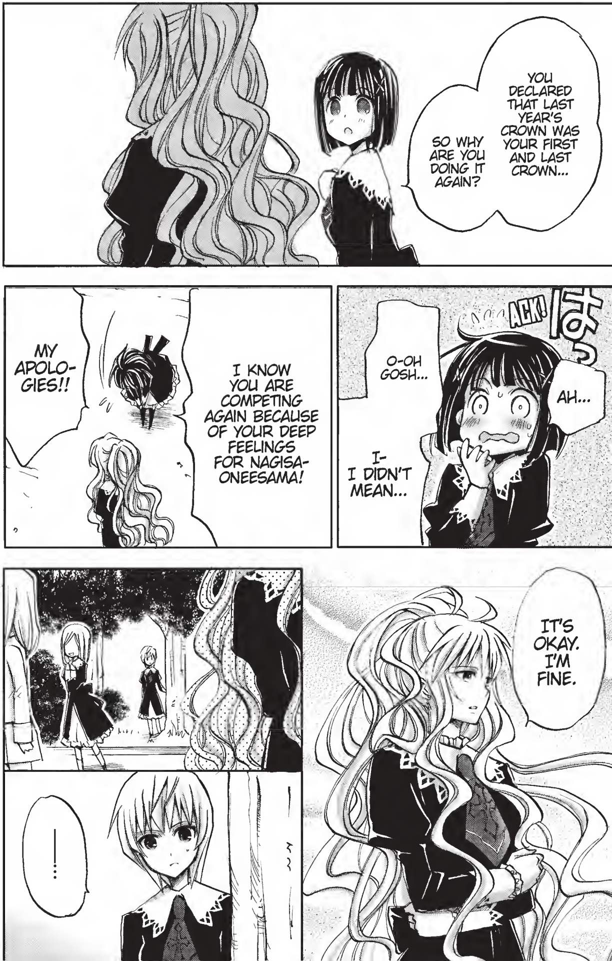

OKAY. I'LL...
I'LL DO MY BEST... *EH HEH HEH...*
HEH... *HEE HEE HEE HEE...*
?
WH- WHAT'S WRONG?
KISS
HUHH?!
HEY, NAGISA-CHAN...
CAN I...*DO* SOMETHING THAT WILL **RELAX** YOU?
はあ PANT
はあ PANT

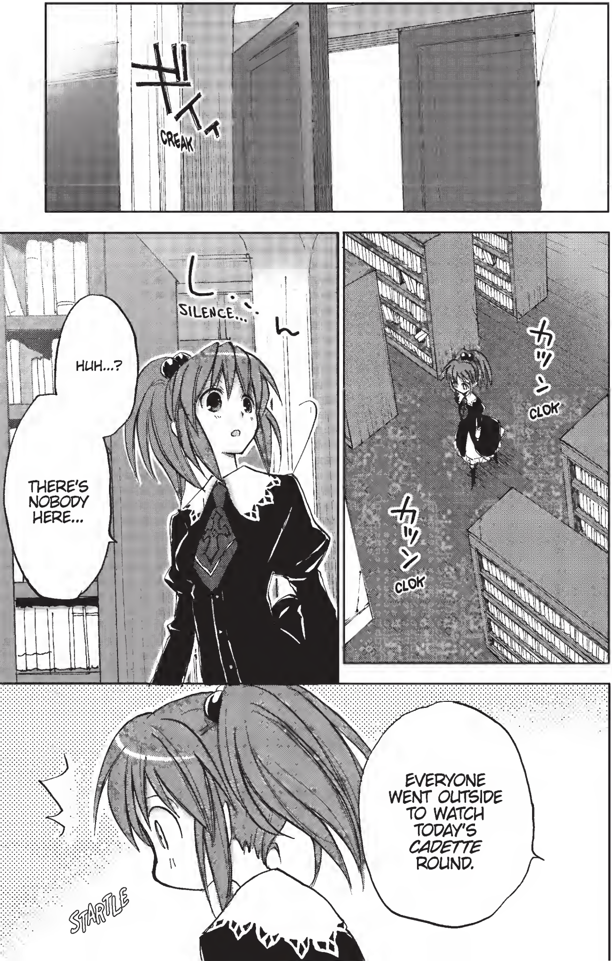

L-LIKE WHAT?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
SORRY! ALL FINISHED WITH MY BATH!!
ダッ
FLEE
AH...! NAGISA-CHAN!!
OHH, WAIT FOR ME!
HUFF HUFF
GOSH... TAMAO-CHAN...
BA-THUMP
BA-THUMP
BUT...I WAS ABLE TO RELAX A BIT.
THANK YOU, TAMAO-CHAN.
ガサッ
RUSTLE
HMM?
A LETTER...?

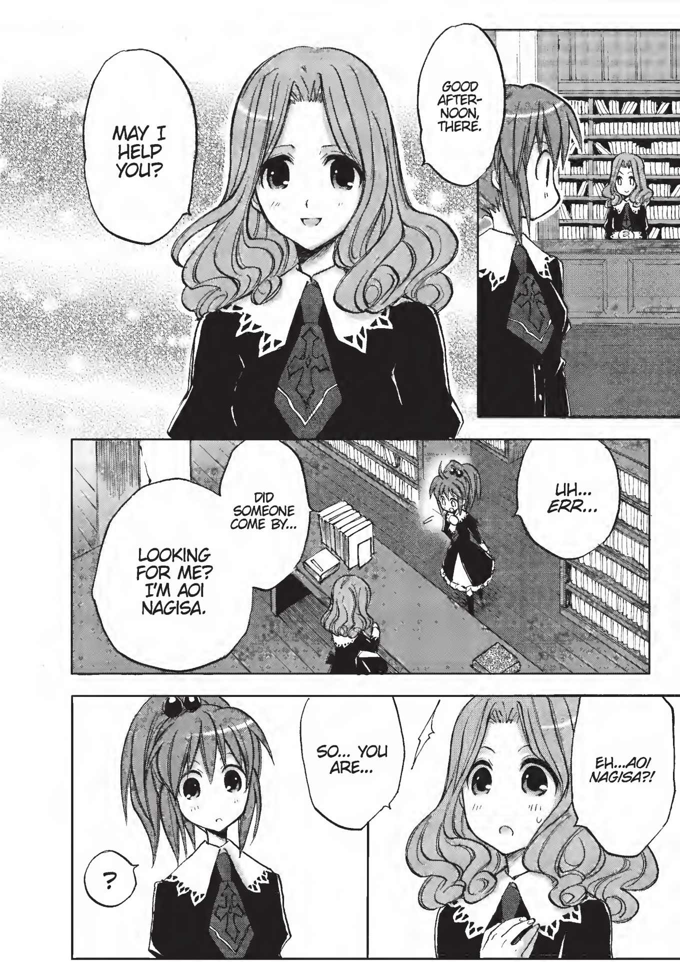

Aoi Nagisa-sama,
There is something you should see before you compete in the Étoile Competition today.
You must see it before the Cadette event. I will wait for you at the library.
It will uncover the truth behind Shizuma-sama...
AH...
WHAT... IS THIS?

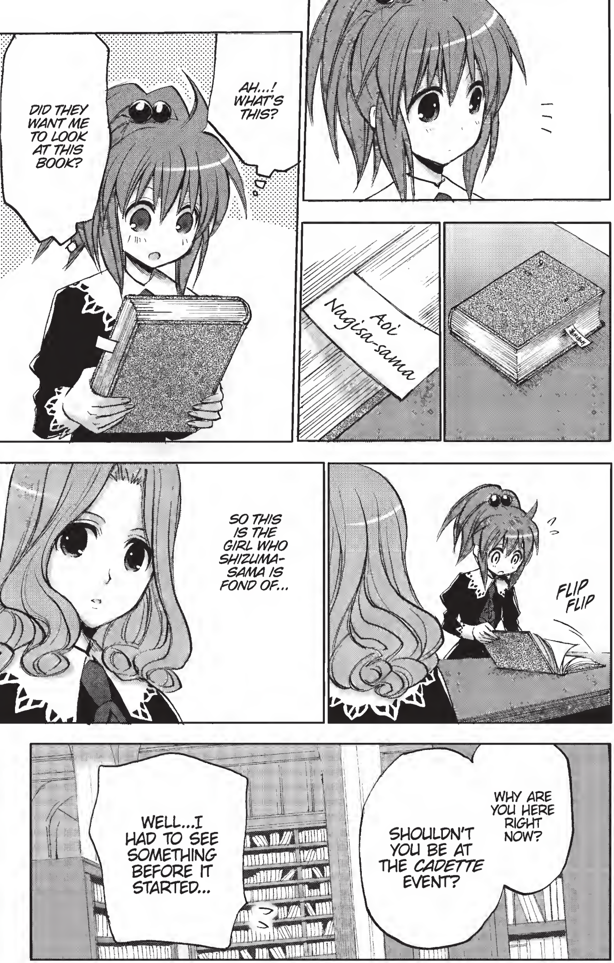

DING DONG
CHATTER ザワ
CHATTER ザワ
WE WILL NOW BEGIN *"L'OUVERTURE BRILLANTE,"* THE FIRST *CADETTE* ROUND OF THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION.
CONTESTANTS, PLEASE ASSEMBLE TO THE FRONT.
SHUFFLE ザワ
……
SHUFFLE ザワ
GLANCE
GLANCE
SHUFFLE ザワ

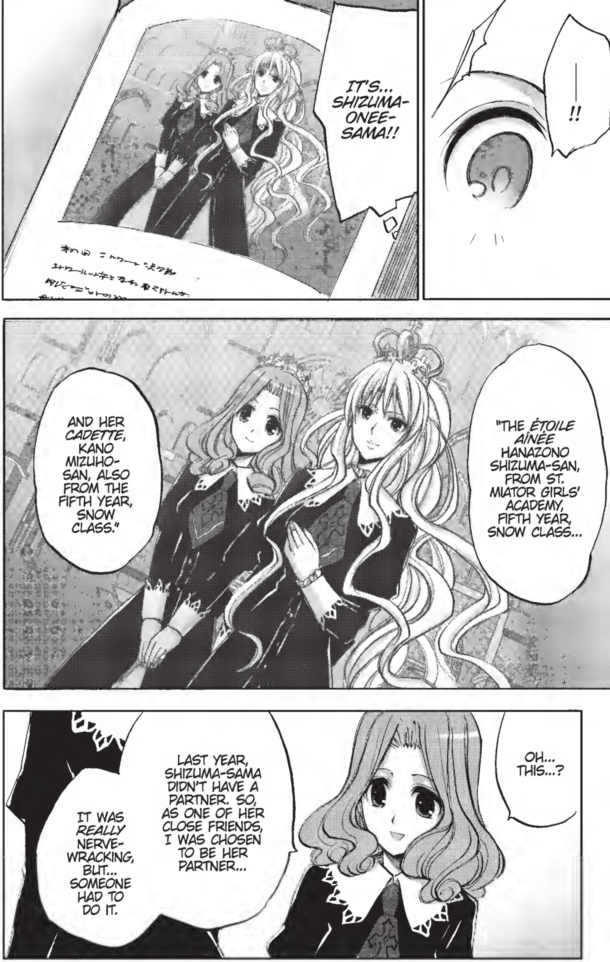

NAGISA ISN'T HERE. WHERE ON EARTH CAN SHE BE?
MAYBE SHE GOT LOST ON HER WAY. *OHH*, I'M SO WORRIED.
THAT'S POSSIBLE. NAGISA STILL ISN'T FAMILIAR WITH THIS CAMPUS YET. I SHOULD HAVE PICKED HER UP.
ARGH... MAYBE IT WAS A MISTAKE TO CHOOSE HER AS MY PARTNER.
BUT, SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA... I WAS SURPRISED YOU DECIDED TO COMPETE FOR THE *ÉTOILE* CROWN AGAIN.
THE OTHER DAY AT THE LIBRARY... I SAW A PHOTO OF YOU WITH THE *ÉTOILE* CROWN.
YOU LOOKED SO *DIVINE*...SO *BEAUTIFUL*... I WAS MOVED TO TEARS BY THE SIGHT.

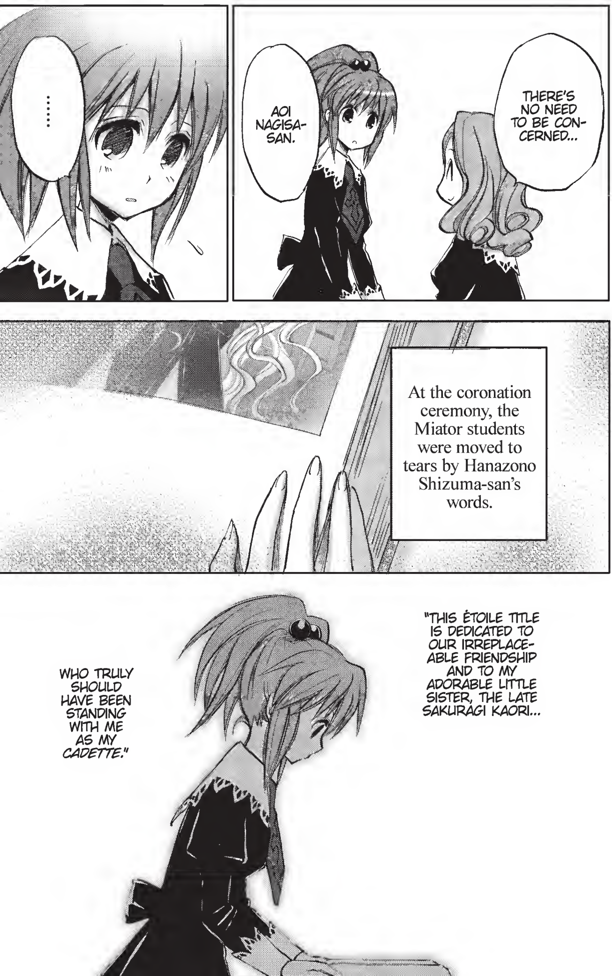

YOU DECLARED THAT LAST YEAR'S CROWN WAS YOUR FIRST AND LAST CROWN...
SO WHY ARE YOU DOING IT AGAIN?
はっ
ACK!
AH...
O-OH GOSH...
I- I DIDN'T MEAN...
I KNOW YOU ARE COMPETING AGAIN BECAUSE OF YOUR DEEP FEELINGS FOR NAGISA-ONEESAMA!
MY APOLOGIES!!
IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.
—...

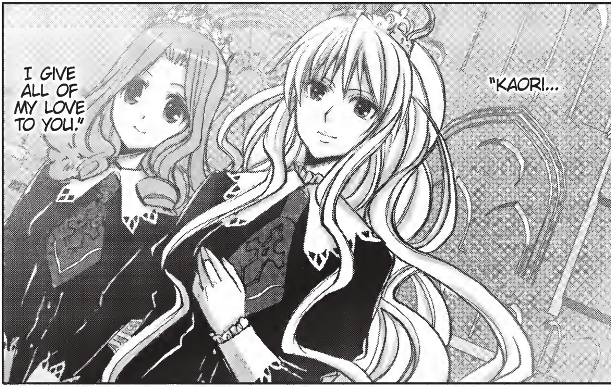

ギィィ
CREAK
カッン
CLOK
カッン
CLOK
し…ん
SILENCE...
HUH...?
THERE'S NOBODY HERE...
EVERYONE WENT OUTSIDE TO WATCH TODAY'S *CADETTE* ROUND.
STARTLE

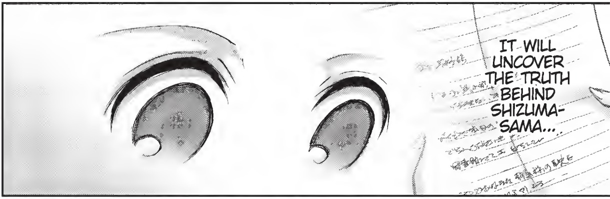

GOOD AFTERNOON, THERE.
MAY I HELP YOU?
UH... ERR...
DID SOMEONE COME BY...
LOOKING FOR ME? I'M AOI NAGISA.
EH...AOI NAGISA?!
SO... YOU ARE...
?

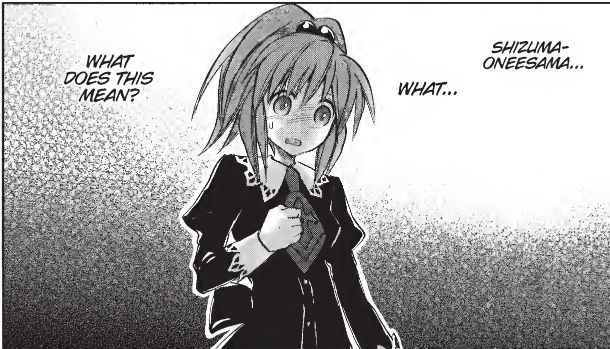

Aoi Nagisa-sama
AH...! WHAT'S THIS?
DID THEY WANT ME TO LOOK AT THIS BOOK?
FLIP FLIP
SO THIS IS THE GIRL WHO SHIZUMA-SAMA IS FOND OF...
WHY ARE YOU HERE RIGHT NOW?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE AT THE *CADETTE* EVENT?
WELL...I HAD TO SEE SOMETHING BEFORE IT STARTED...


!!
IT'S... SHIZUMA-ONEE-SAMA!!
"THE ÉTOILE AÎNÉE HANAZONO SHIZUMA-SAN, FROM ST. MIATOR GIRLS' ACADEMY, FIFTH YEAR, SNOW CLASS...
AND HER CADETTE, KANO MIZUHO-SAN, ALSO FROM THE FIFTH YEAR, SNOW CLASS."
OH... THIS...?
LAST YEAR, SHIZUMA-SAMA DIDN'T HAVE A PARTNER. SO, AS ONE OF HER CLOSE FRIENDS, I WAS CHOSEN TO BE HER PARTNER...
IT WAS REALLY NERVE-WRACKING, BUT... SOMEONE HAD TO DO IT.

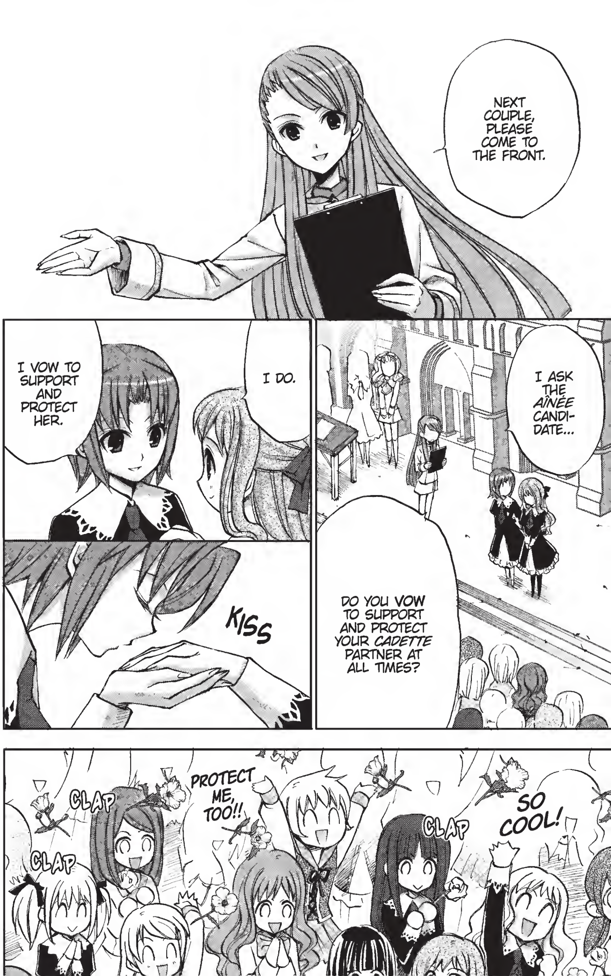

THERE'S NO NEED TO BE CONCERNED...
AOI NAGISA-SAN.
......
At the coronation ceremony, the Miator students were moved to tears by Hanazono Shizuma-san's words.
"THIS ÉTOILE TITLE IS DEDICATED TO OUR IRREPLACEABLE FRIENDSHIP AND TO MY ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER, THE LATE SAKURAGI KAORI...
WHO TRULY SHOULD HAVE BEEN STANDING WITH ME AS MY *CADETTE*."

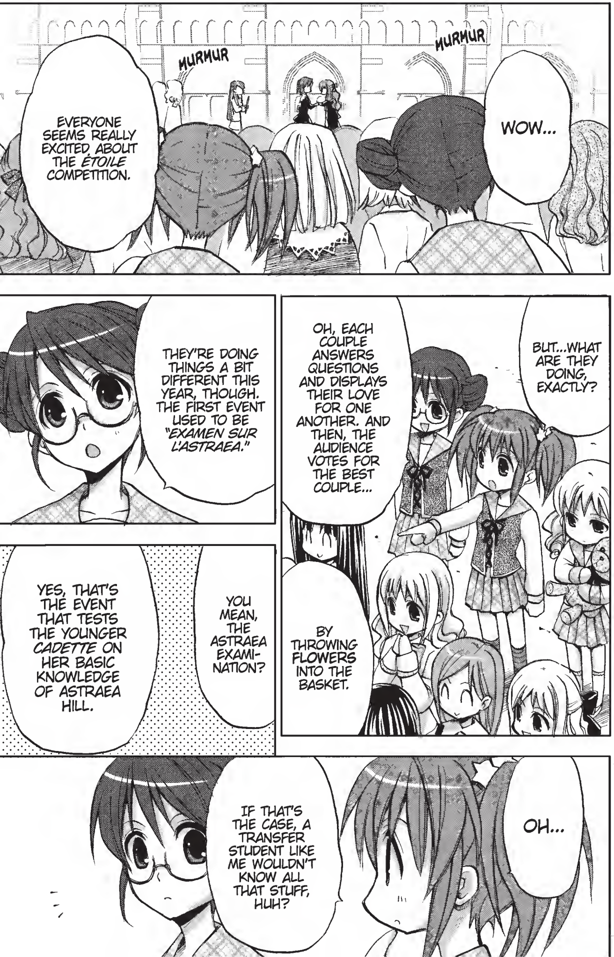

"KAORI...
I GIVE ALL OF MY LOVE TO YOU."

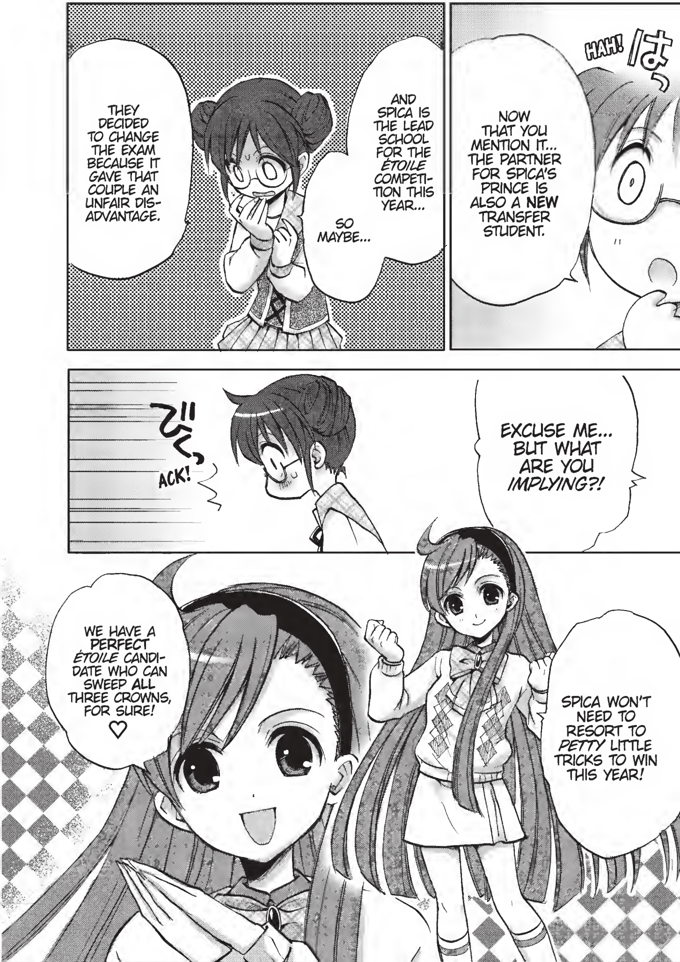

IT WILL UNCOVER THE TRUTH BEHIND SHIZUMA-SAMA...

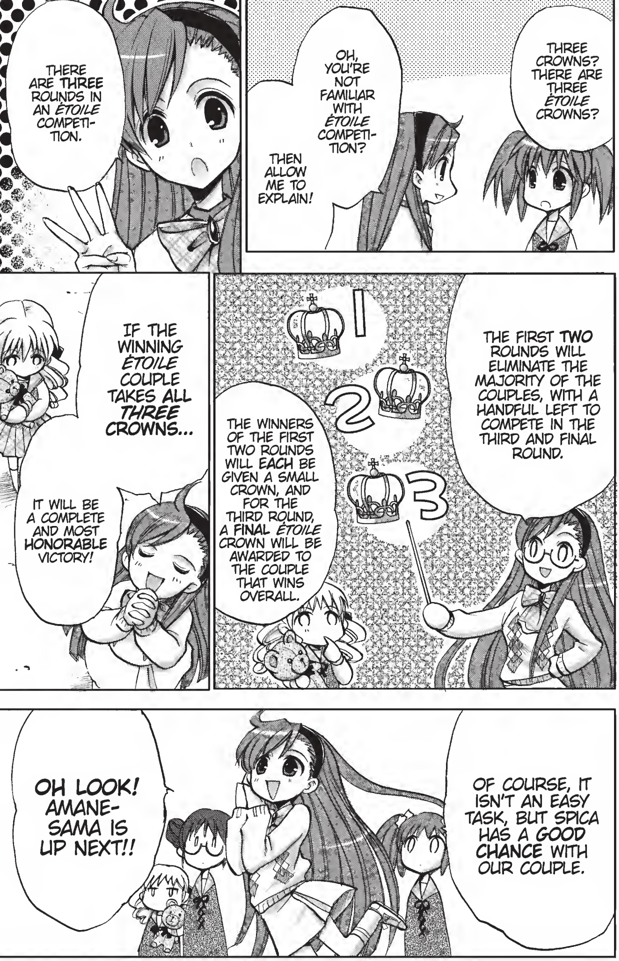

SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...
WHAT...
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

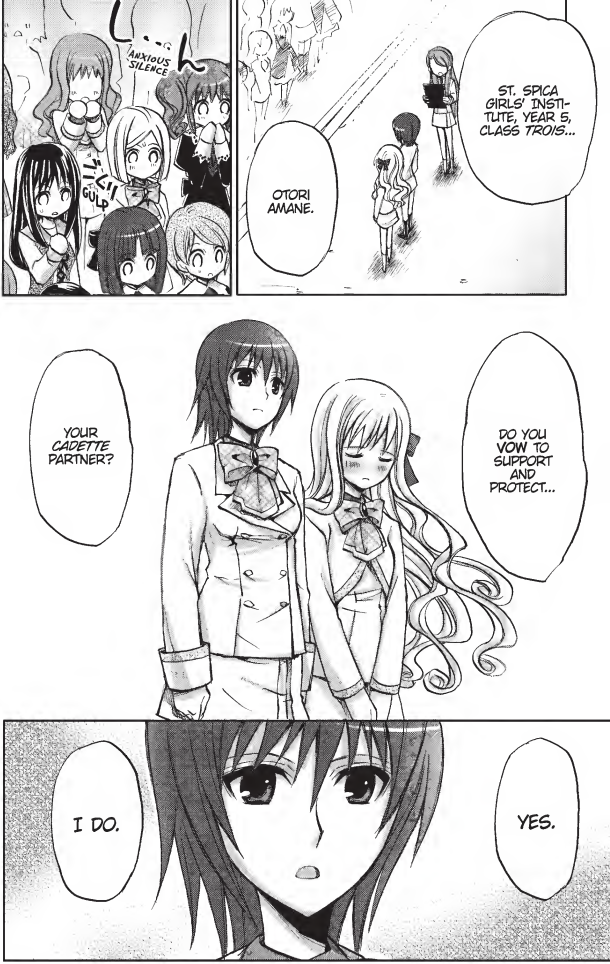
Chapter 10: Eternal Promise

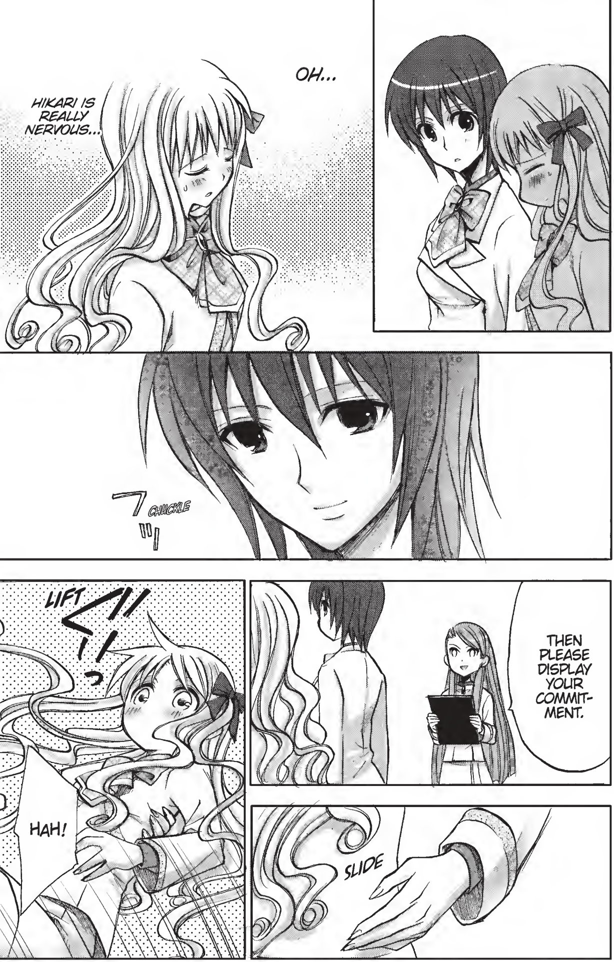

NEXT COUPLE, PLEASE COME TO THE FRONT.
I ASK THE *AÎNÉE* CANDIDATE...
DO YOU VOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT YOUR *CADETTE* PARTNER AT ALL TIMES?
I DO.
I VOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT HER.
KISS
SO COOL!
CLAP
PROTECT ME, TOO!!
CLAP
CLAP

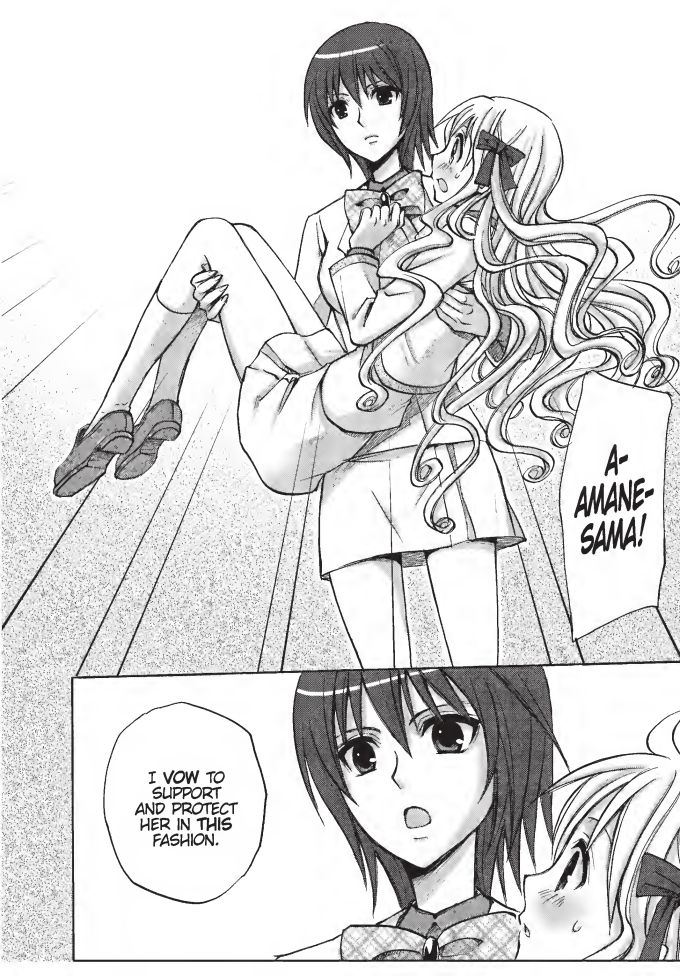

MURMUR
MURMUR
WOW...
EVERYONE SEEMS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION.
BUT...WHAT ARE THEY DOING, EXACTLY?
OH, EACH COUPLE ANSWERS QUESTIONS AND DISPLAYS THEIR LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AND THEN, THE AUDIENCE VOTES FOR THE BEST COUPLE...
BY THROWING FLOWERS INTO THE BASKET.
THEY'RE DOING THINGS A BIT DIFFERENT THIS YEAR, THOUGH. THE FIRST EVENT USED TO BE *"EXAMEN SUR L'ASTRAEA."*
YOU MEAN, THE ASTRAEA EXAMINATION?
YES, THAT'S THE EVENT THAT TESTS THE YOUNGER *CADETTE* ON HER BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF ASTRAEA HILL.
OH...
IF THAT'S THE CASE, A TRANSFER STUDENT LIKE ME WOULDN'T KNOW ALL THAT STUFF, HUH?

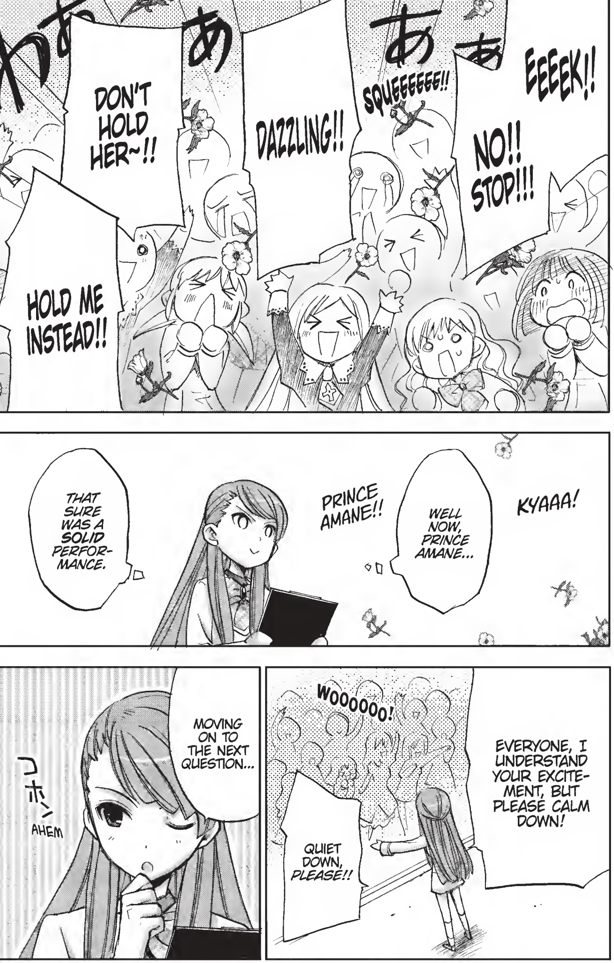

HAH! はっ
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... THE PARTNER FOR SPICA'S PRINCE IS ALSO A NEW TRANSFER STUDENT.
AND SPICA IS THE LEAD SCHOOL FOR THE ÉTOILE COMPETITION THIS YEAR...
SO MAYBE...
THEY DECIDED TO CHANGE THE EXAM BECAUSE IT GAVE THAT COUPLE AN UNFAIR DISADVANTAGE.
EXCUSE ME... BUT WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING?!
びくっ ACK!
SPICA WON'T NEED TO RESORT TO PETTY LITTLE TRICKS TO WIN THIS YEAR!
WE HAVE A PERFECT ÉTOILE CANDIDATE WHO CAN SWEEP ALL THREE CROWNS, FOR SURE! ♡

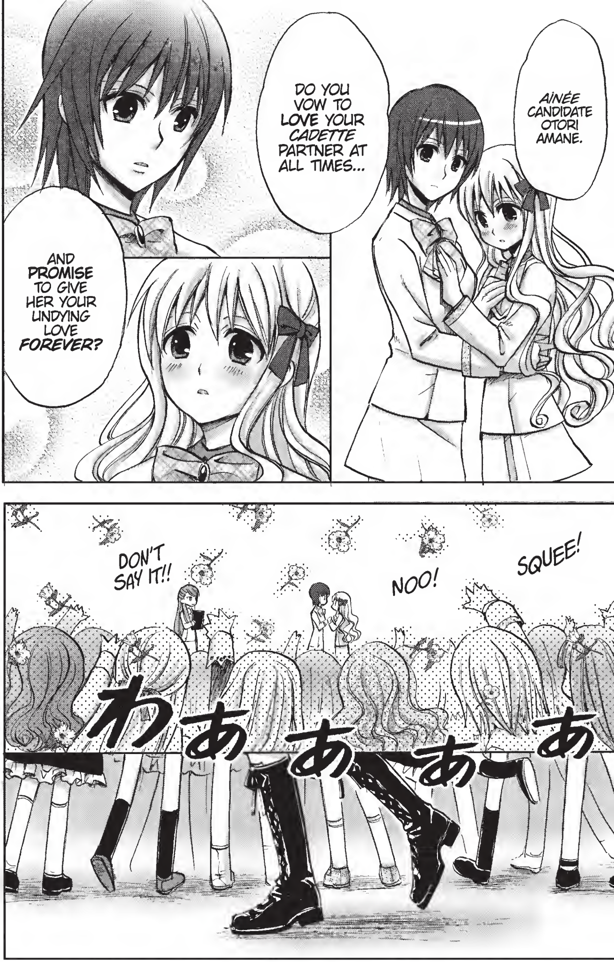

THREE CROWNS? THERE ARE THREE *ÉTOILE* CROWNS?
OH, YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION?
THEN ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN!
THERE ARE **THREE** ROUNDS IN AN *ÉTOILE* COMPETITION.
1
2
3
THE FIRST **TWO** ROUNDS WILL ELIMINATE THE MAJORITY OF THE COUPLES, WITH A HANDFUL LEFT TO COMPETE IN THE THIRD AND FINAL ROUND.
THE WINNERS OF THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS WILL **EACH** BE GIVEN A SMALL CROWN, AND FOR THE THIRD ROUND, A **FINAL** *ÉTOILE* CROWN WILL BE AWARDED TO THE COUPLE THAT WINS OVERALL.
IF THE WINNING *ÉTOILE* COUPLE TAKES **ALL *THREE* CROWNS...**
IT WILL BE A COMPLETE AND MOST **HONORABLE** VICTORY!
OF COURSE, IT ISN'T AN EASY TASK, BUT SPICA HAS A **GOOD CHANCE** WITH OUR COUPLE.
OH LOOK! AMANE-SAMA IS UP NEXT!!

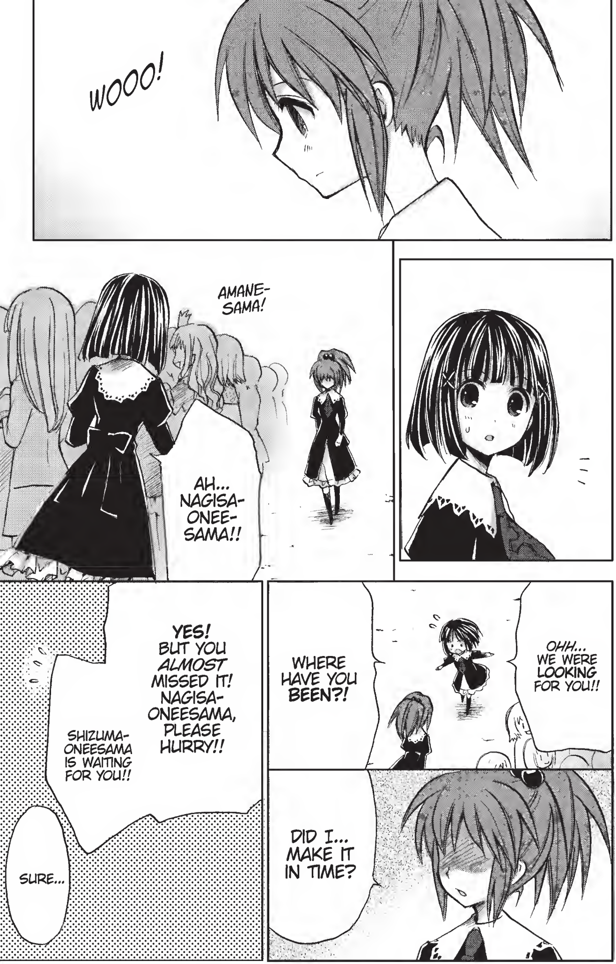

ST. SPICA GIRLS' INSTITUTE, YEAR 5, CLASS *TROIS*...
OTORI AMANE.
ANXIOUS SILENCE
GULP
DO YOU VOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT...
YOUR *CADETTE* PARTNER?
YES.
I DO.

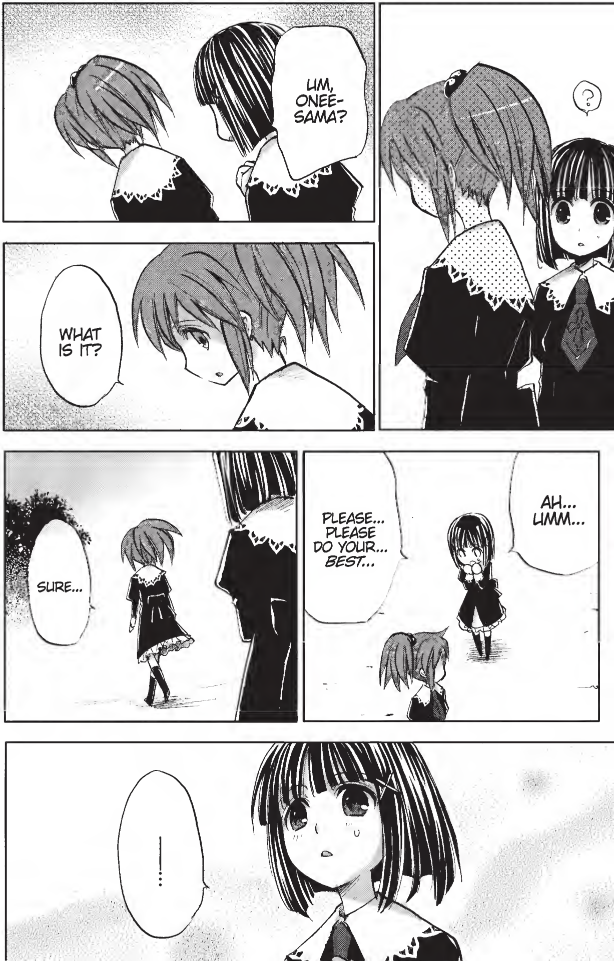

OH...
HIKARI IS REALLY NERVOUS...
CHUCKLE
THEN PLEASE DISPLAY YOUR COMMITMENT.
SLIDE
LIFT
HAH!

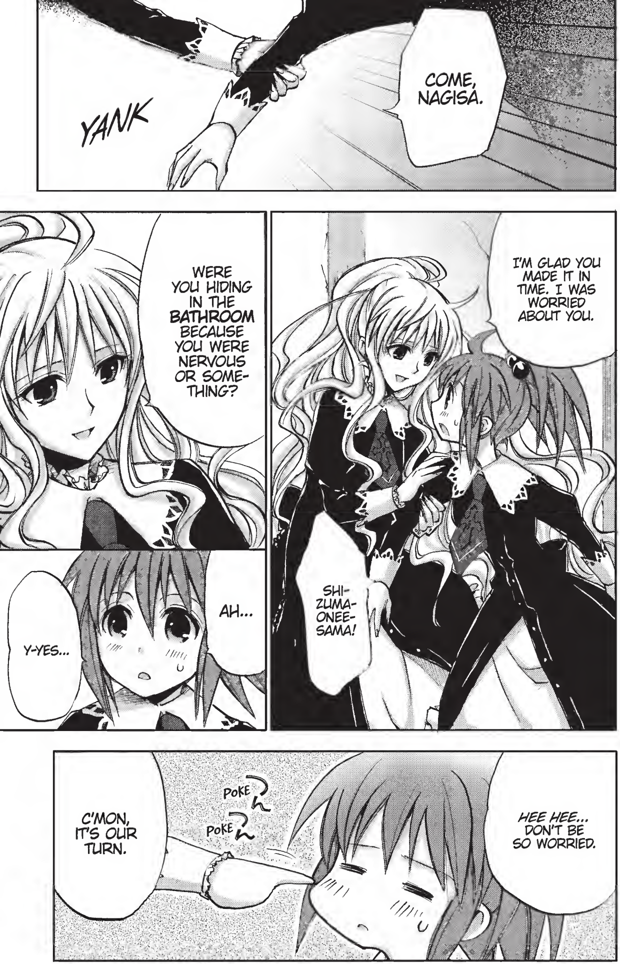

A-AMANE-SAMA!
I VOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT HER IN THIS FASHION.

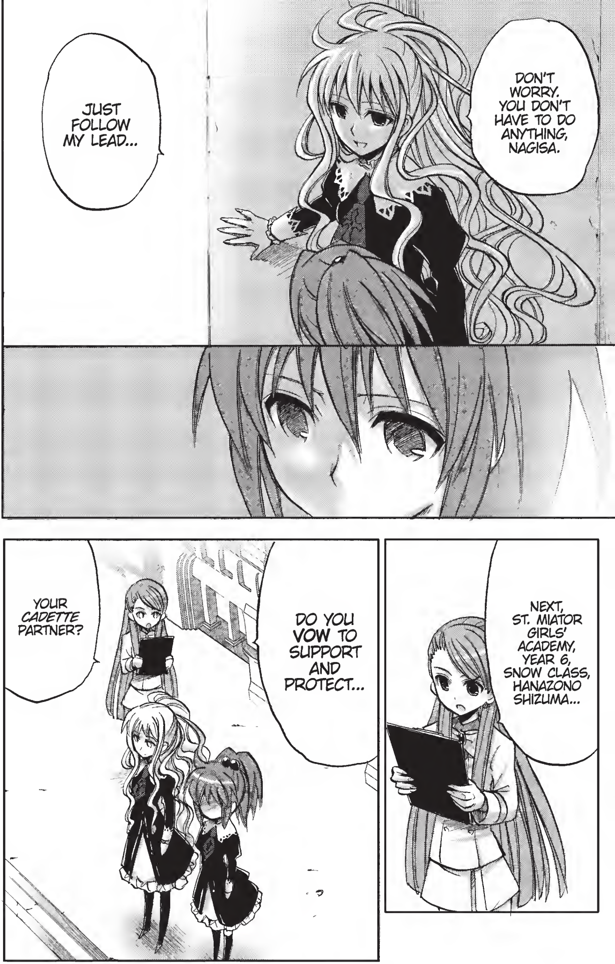

わあああぁ
EEEEK!!
NO!! STOP!!!
SQUEEEEEE!!
DAZZLING!!
DON'T HOLD HER~!!
HOLD ME INSTEAD!!
KYAAA!
WELL NOW, PRINCE AMANE...
PRINCE AMANE!!
THAT SURE WAS A SOLID PERFORMANCE.
WOOOOOO!
EVERYONE, I UNDERSTAND YOUR EXCITEMENT, BUT PLEASE CALM DOWN!
QUIET DOWN, PLEASE!!
MOVING ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION...
コホン
AHEM

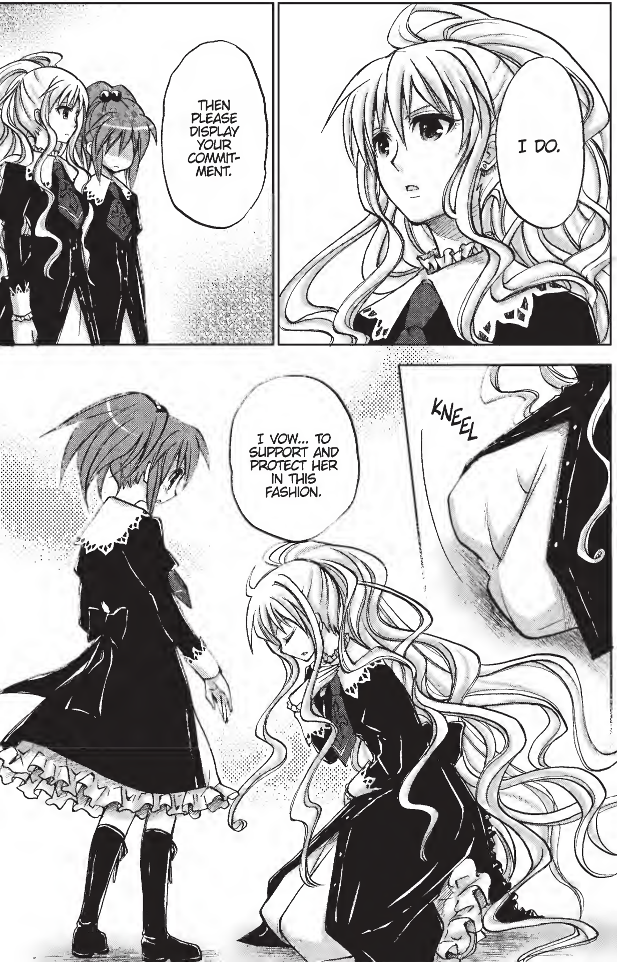

AÎNÉE CANDIDATE OTORI AMANE.
DO YOU VOW TO **LOVE** YOUR *CADETTE* PARTNER AT ALL TIMES...
AND **PROMISE** TO GIVE HER YOUR UNDYING LOVE ***FOREVER?***
SQUEE!
NOO!
DON'T SAY IT!!
わあああああ

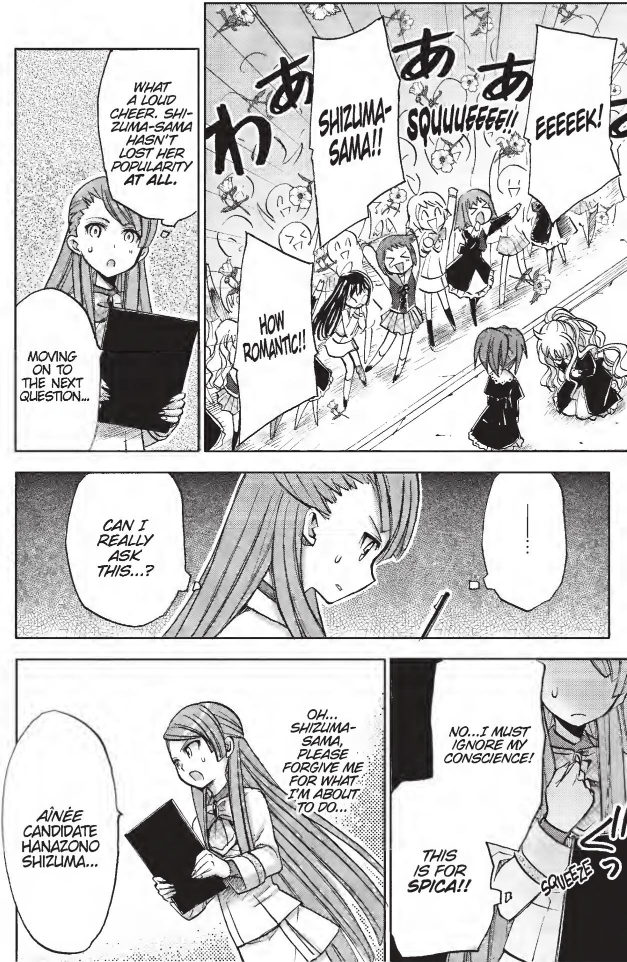

WOOO!
AMANE-SAMA!
AH... NAGISA-ONEESAMA!!
OHH... WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU!!
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?!
DID I... MAKE IT IN TIME?
YES! BUT YOU *ALMOST* MISSED IT! NAGISA-ONEESAMA, PLEASE HURRY!!
SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA IS WAITING FOR YOU!!
SURE...

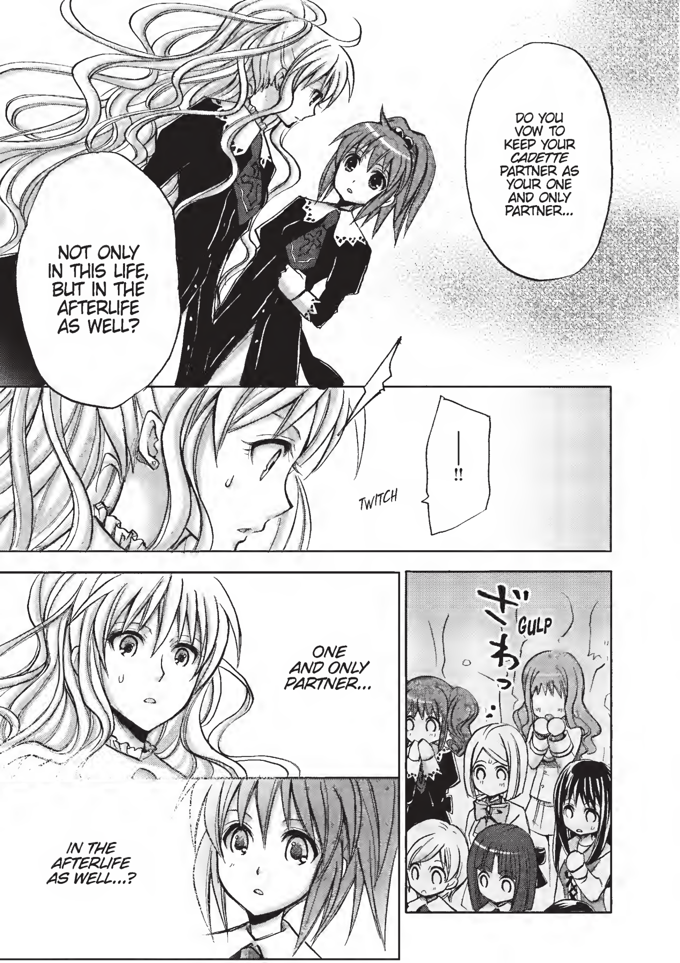

?
UM, ONEE-SAMA?
WHAT IS IT?
AH... UMM...
PLEASE... PLEASE DO YOUR... *BEST*...
SURE...
—!...

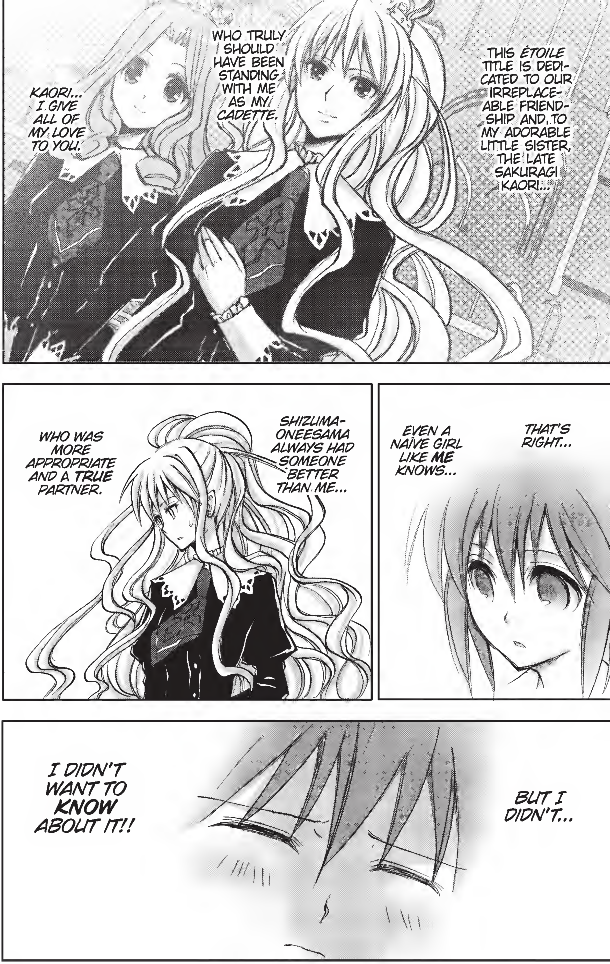

COME, NAGISA.
YANK
I'M GLAD YOU MADE IT IN TIME. I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
SHIZUMA-ONEE-SAMA!
WERE YOU HIDING IN THE BATHROOM BECAUSE YOU WERE NERVOUS OR SOMETHING?
AH...
Y-YES...
HEE HEE... DON'T BE SO WORRIED.
POKE
POKE
C'MON, IT'S OUR TURN.

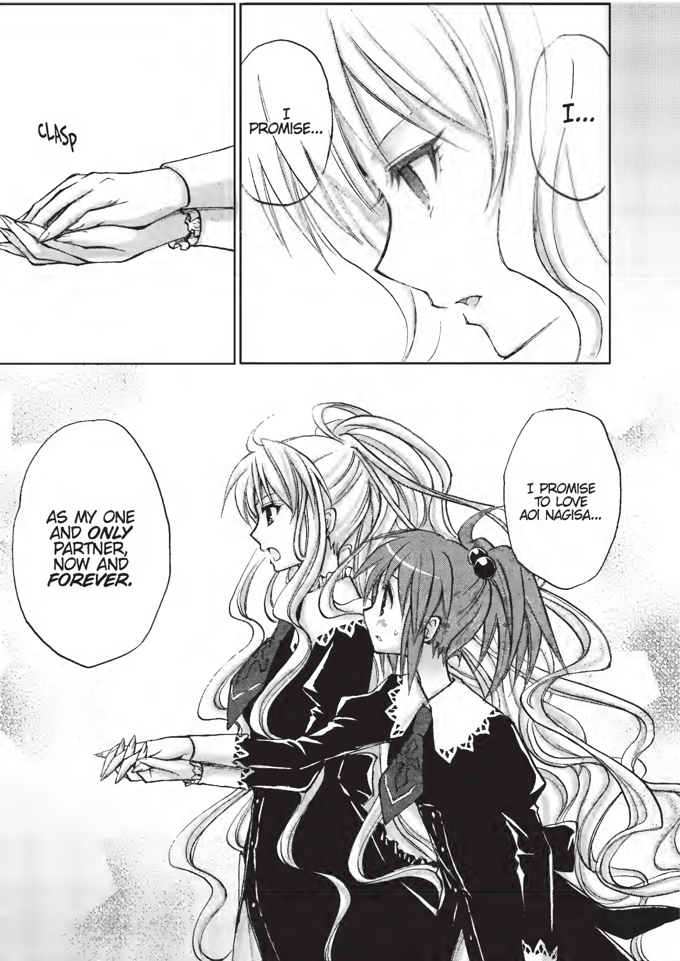

DON'T WORRY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, NAGISA.
JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD...
NEXT, ST. MIATOR GIRLS' ACADEMY, YEAR 6, SNOW CLASS, HANAZONO SHIZUMA...
DO YOU *VOW* TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT...
YOUR *CADETTE* PARTNER?

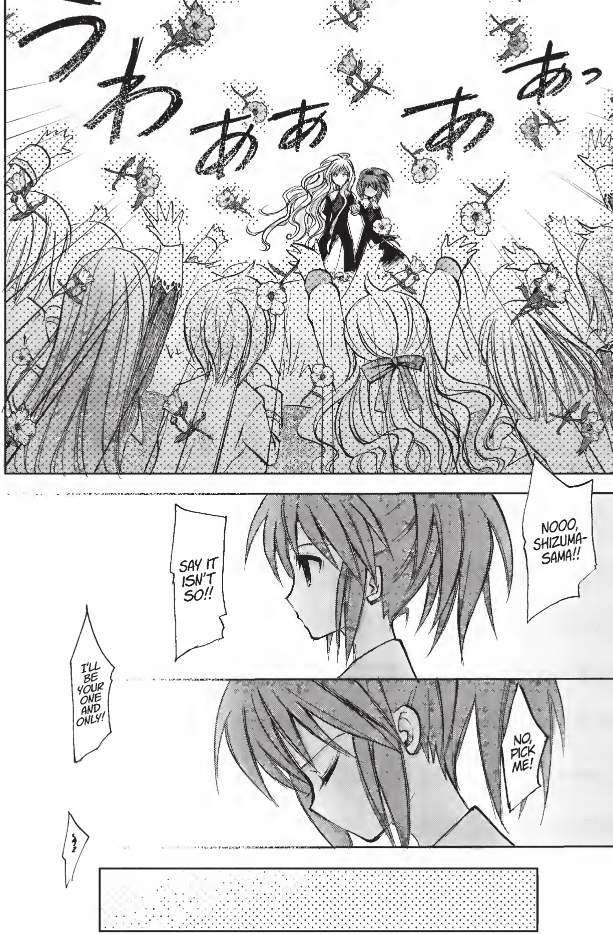

I DO.
THEN PLEASE DISPLAY YOUR COMMITMENT.
KNEEL
I VOW... TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT HER IN THIS FASHION.

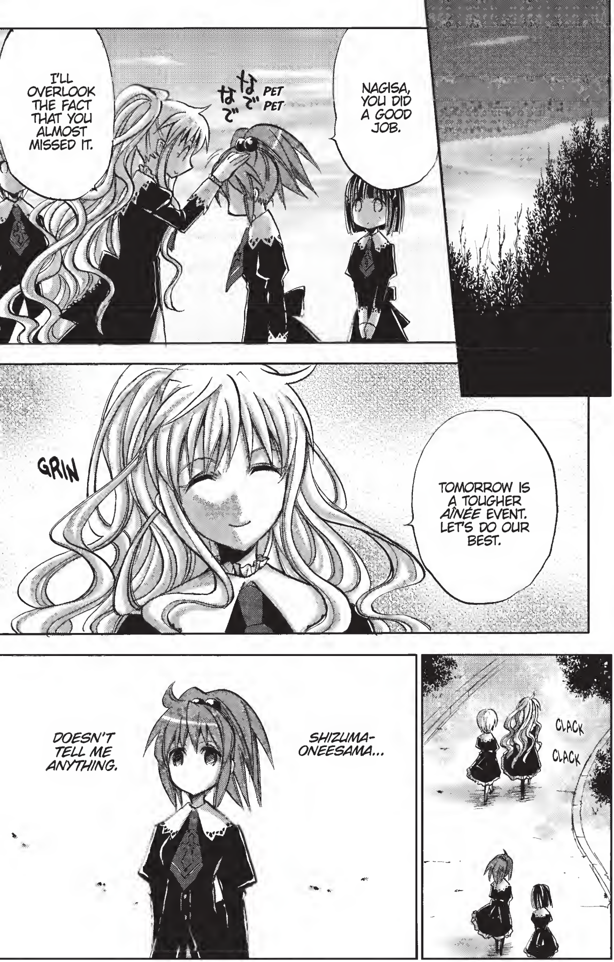

わあああ
EEEEEK!
SQUUUEEEE!!
SHIZUMA-SAMA!!
HOW ROMANTIC!!
WHAT A LOUD CHEER. SHIZUMA-SAMA HASN'T LOST HER POPULARITY AT ALL.
MOVING ON TO THE NEXT QUESTION...
……
CAN I REALLY ASK THIS...?
NO...I MUST IGNORE MY CONSCIENCE!
THIS IS FOR SPICA!!
SQUEEZE
OH... SHIZUMA-SAMA, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO...
AÎNÉE CANDIDATE HANAZONO SHIZUMA...

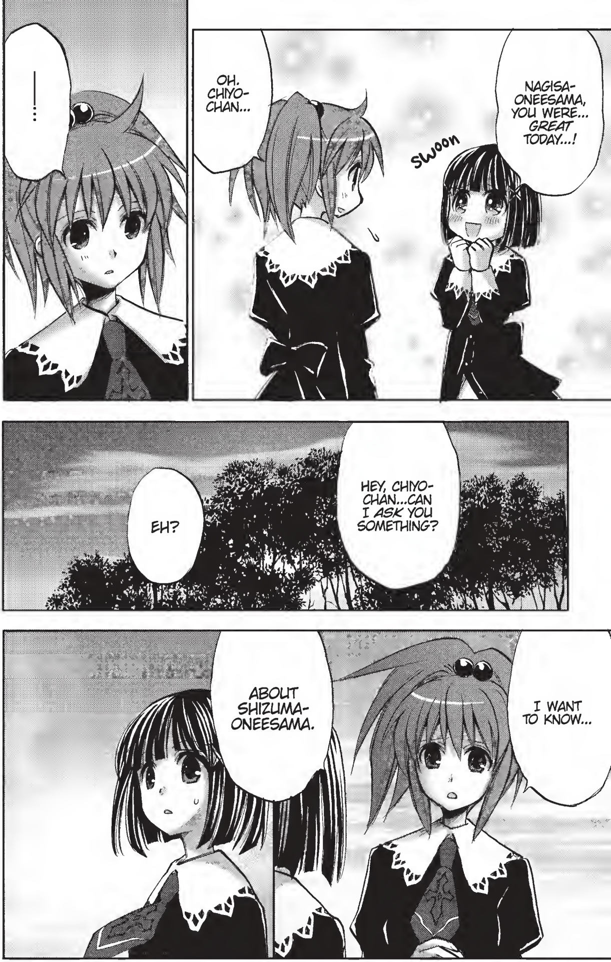

DO YOU VOW TO KEEP YOUR *CADETTE* PARTNER AS YOUR ONE AND ONLY PARTNER...
NOT ONLY IN THIS LIFE, BUT IN THE AFTERLIFE AS WELL?
—!!
TWITCH
ざわっ
GULP
ONE AND ONLY PARTNER...
IN THE AFTERLIFE AS WELL...?

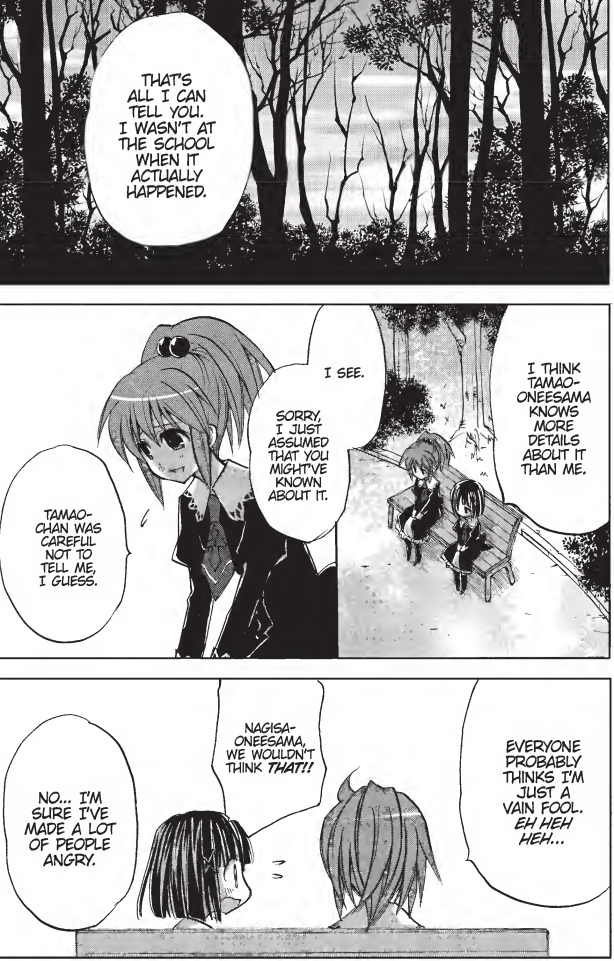

THIS ÉTOILE TITLE IS DEDICATED TO OUR IRREPLACEABLE FRIENDSHIP AND, TO MY ADORABLE LITTLE SISTER, THE LATE SAKURAGI KAORI...
WHO TRULY SHOULD HAVE BEEN STANDING WITH ME AS MY CADETTE.
KAORI... I GIVE ALL OF MY LOVE TO YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT...
EVEN A NAÏVE GIRL LIKE ME KNOWS...
SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA ALWAYS HAD SOMEONE BETTER THAN ME...
WHO WAS MORE APPROPRIATE AND A TRUE PARTNER.
BUT I DIDN'T...
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT!!

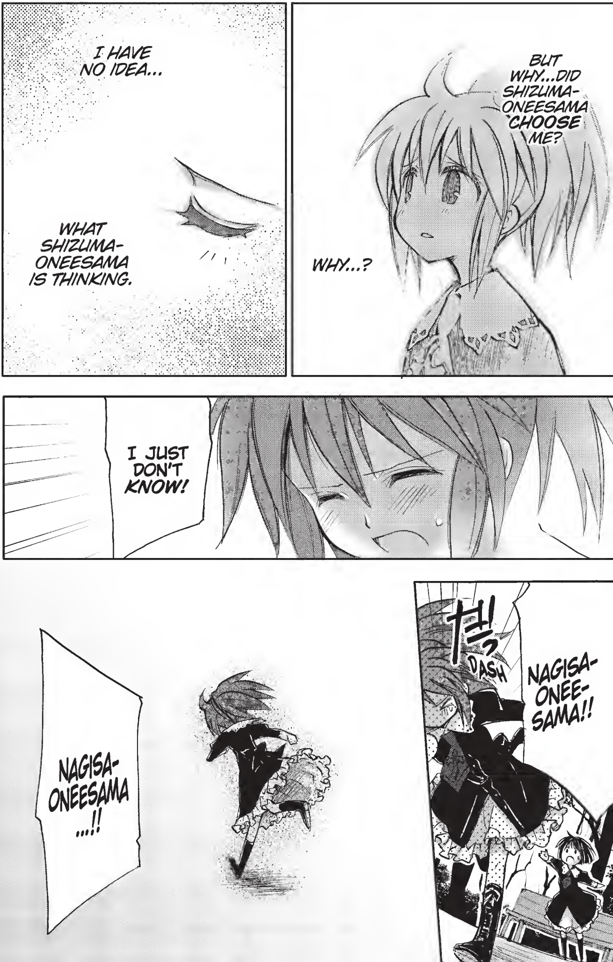

I...
I PROMISE...
CLASP
I PROMISE TO LOVE AOI NAGISA...
AS MY ONE AND *ONLY* PARTNER, NOW AND *FOREVER.*

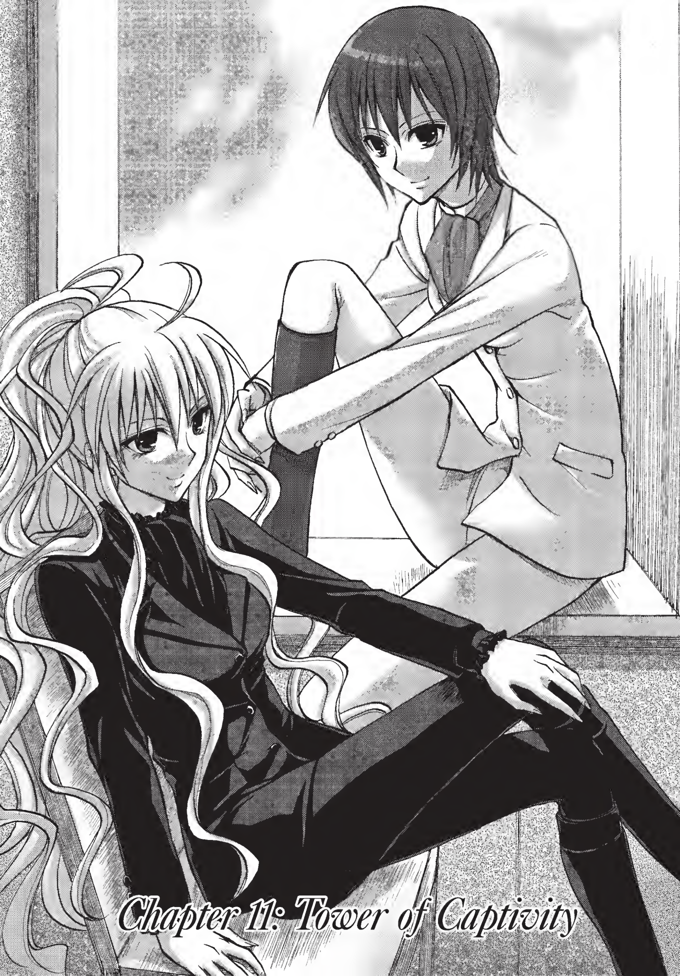

うわああああっ
NOOO, SHIZUMA-SAMA!!
SAY IT ISN'T SO!!
NO, PICK ME!
I'LL BE YOUR ONE AND ONLY!
うぅ


NAGISA, YOU DID A GOOD JOB.
なでなで
PET PET
I'LL OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT YOU ALMOST MISSED IT.
TOMORROW IS A TOUGHER *AÎNÉE* EVENT. LET'S DO OUR BEST.
GRIN
CLACK
CLACK
SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...
DOESN'T TELL ME ANYTHING.

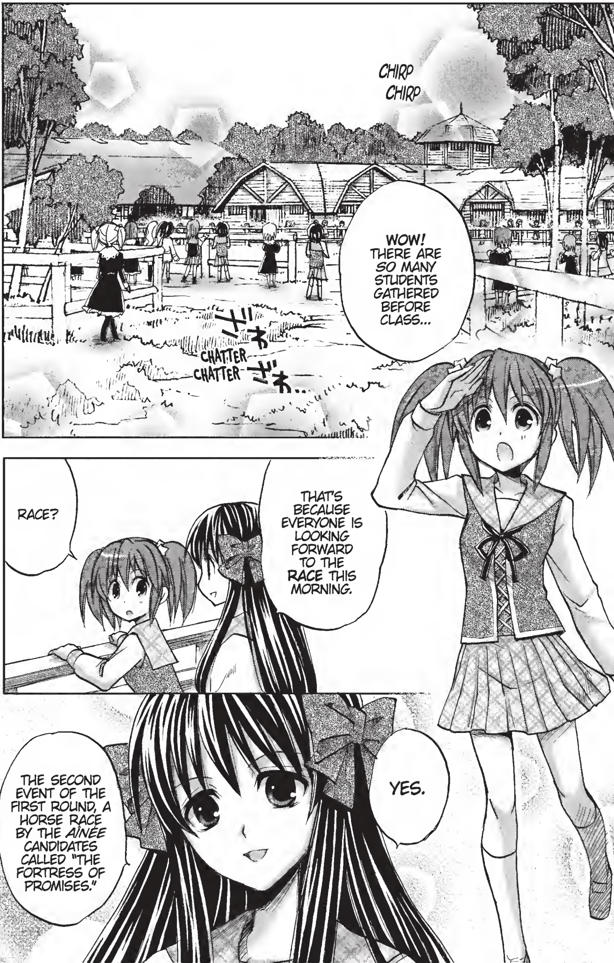

NAGISA-ONEESAMA, YOU WERE... *GREAT* TODAY...!
SWOON
OH. CHIYO-CHAN...
......
HEY, CHIYO-CHAN...CAN I *ASK* YOU SOMETHING?
EH?
I WANT TO KNOW...
ABOUT SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA.

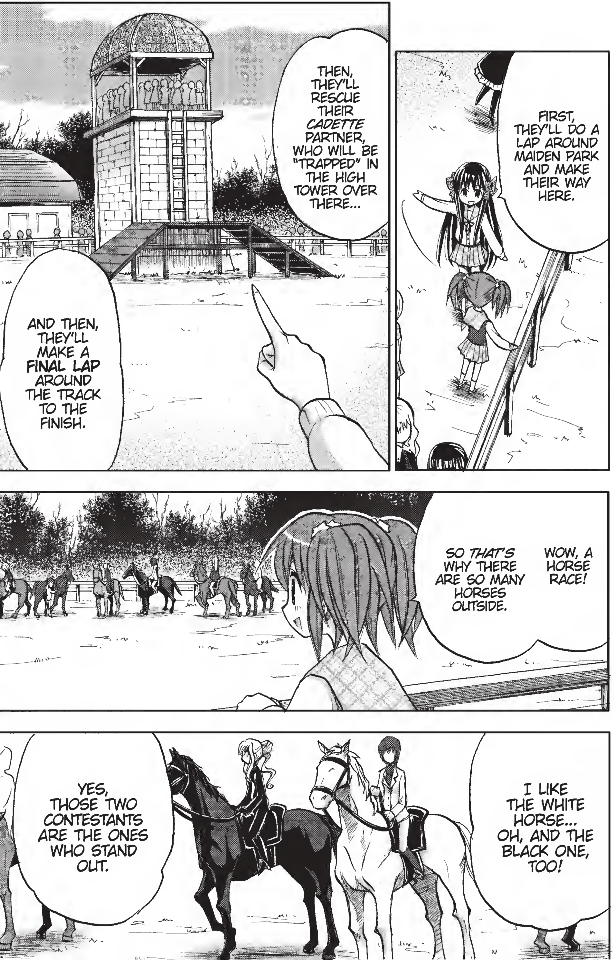

THAT'S ALL I CAN TELL YOU. I WASN'T AT THE SCHOOL WHEN IT ACTUALLY HAPPENED.
I THINK TAMAO-ONEESAMA KNOWS MORE DETAILS ABOUT IT THAN ME.
I SEE.
SORRY, I JUST ASSUMED THAT YOU MIGHT'VE KNOWN ABOUT IT.
TAMAO-CHAN WAS CAREFUL NOT TO TELL ME, I GUESS.
EVERYONE PROBABLY THINKS I'M JUST A VAIN FOOL. *EH HEH HEH...*
NAGISA-ONEESAMA, WE WOULDN'T THINK *THAT!!*
NO... I'M SURE I'VE MADE A LOT OF PEOPLE ANGRY.

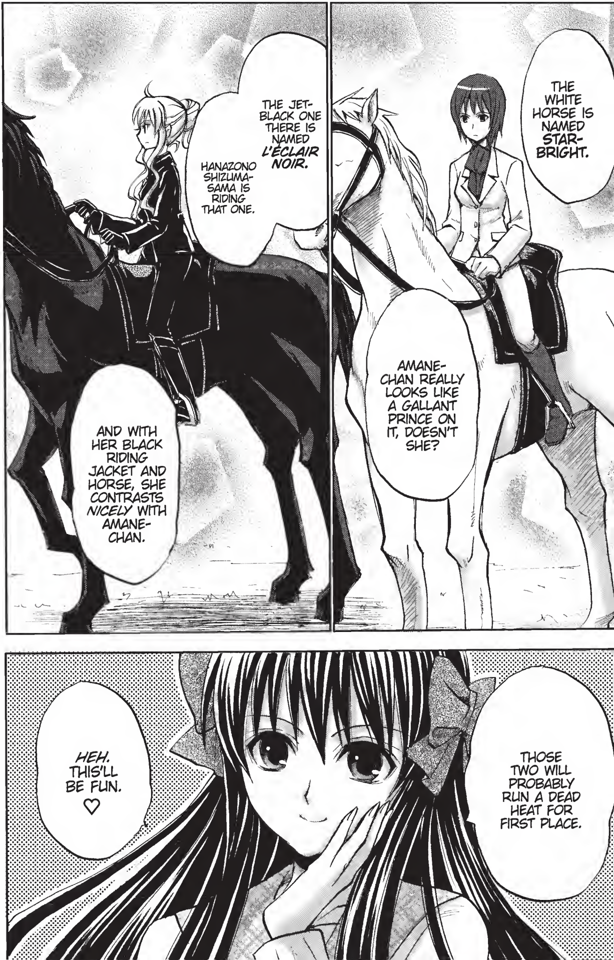

BUT WHY...DID SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA CHOOSE ME?
WHY...?
I HAVE NO IDEA...
WHAT SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA IS THINKING.
I JUST DON'T KNOW!
だっ
DASH
NAGISA-ONEE-SAMA!!
NAGISA-ONEESAMA ...!!

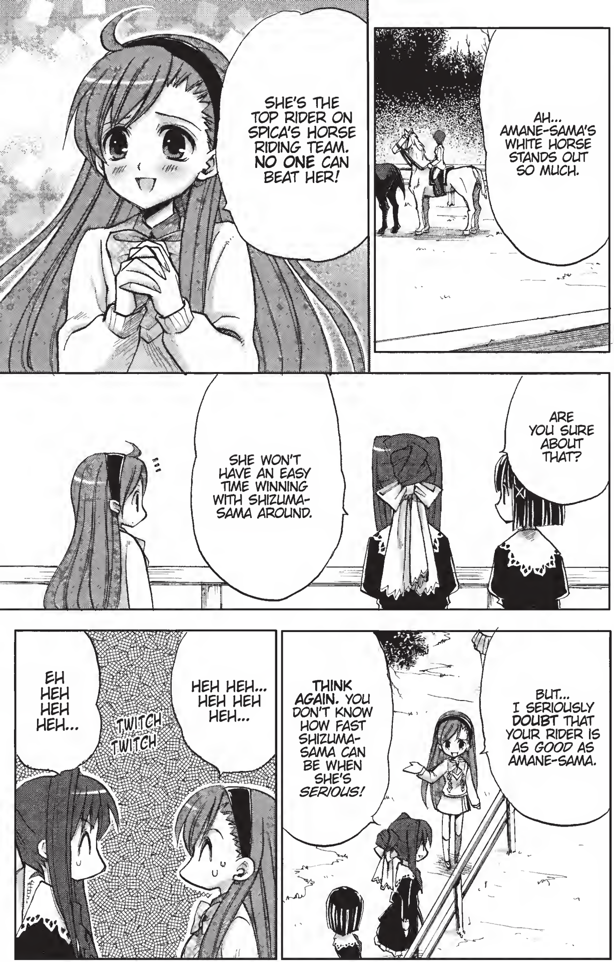


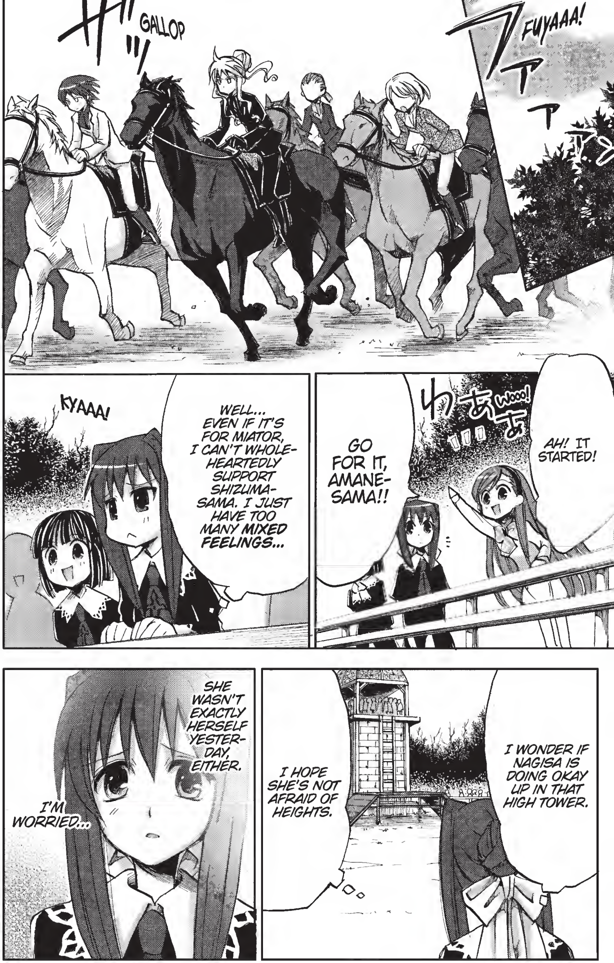
Chapter 11: Tower of Captivity

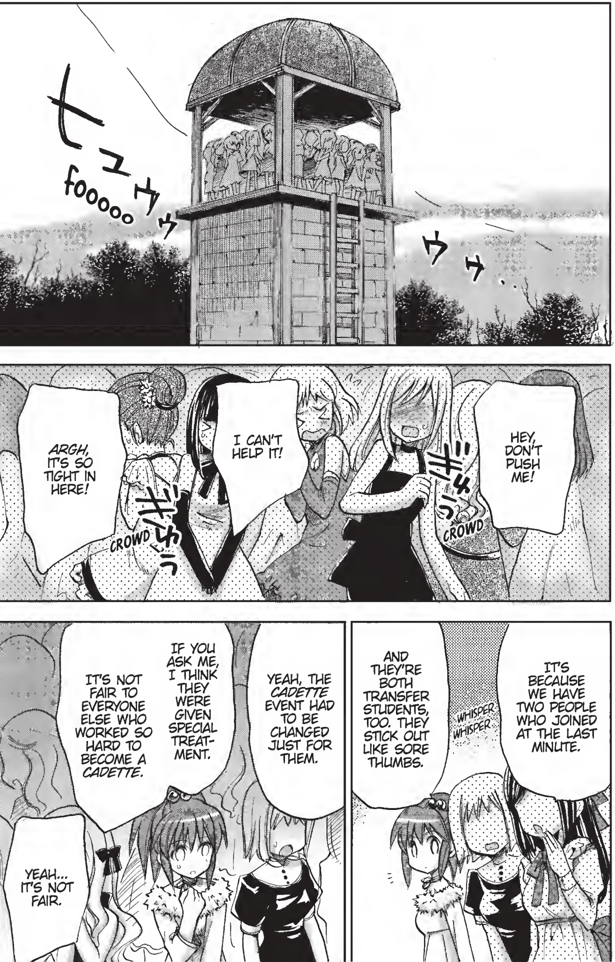

CHIRP
CHIRP
WOW! THERE ARE SO MANY STUDENTS GATHERED BEFORE CLASS...
ざわ
CHATTER
CHATTER
ざわ..
THAT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE **RACE** THIS MORNING.
RACE?
YES.
THE SECOND EVENT OF THE FIRST ROUND, A HORSE RACE BY THE *AÎNÉE* CANDIDATES CALLED "THE FORTRESS OF PROMISES."

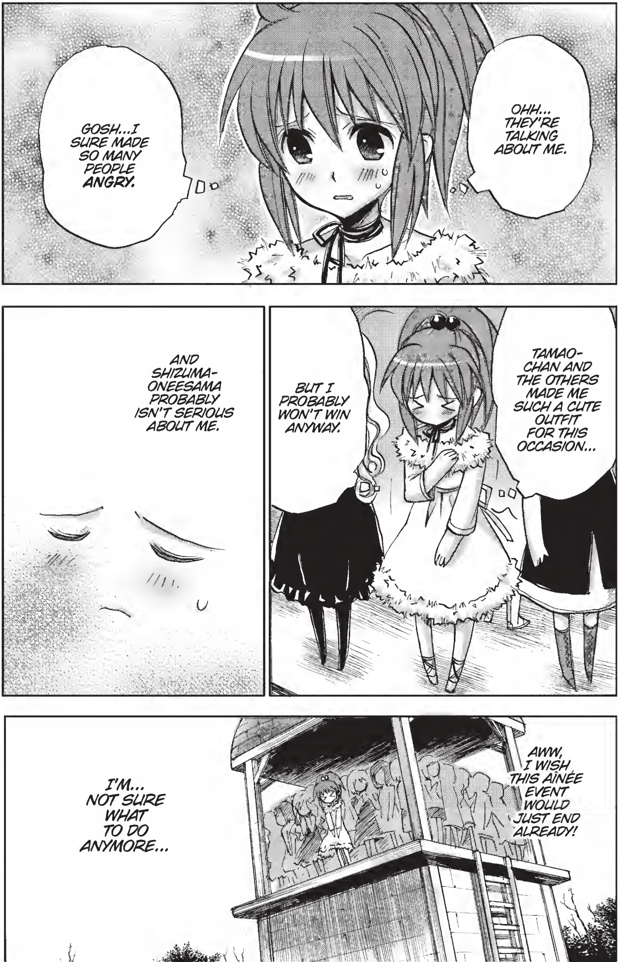

FIRST, THEY'LL DO A LAP AROUND MAIDEN PARK AND MAKE THEIR WAY HERE.
THEN, THEY'LL RESCUE THEIR *CADETTE* PARTNER, WHO WILL BE "TRAPPED" IN THE HIGH TOWER OVER THERE...
AND THEN, THEY'LL MAKE A **FINAL LAP** AROUND THE TRACK TO THE FINISH.
WOW, A HORSE RACE!
SO *THAT'S* WHY THERE ARE SO MANY HORSES OUTSIDE.
I LIKE THE WHITE HORSE... OH, AND THE BLACK ONE, TOO!
YES, THOSE TWO CONTESTANTS ARE THE ONES WHO STAND OUT.

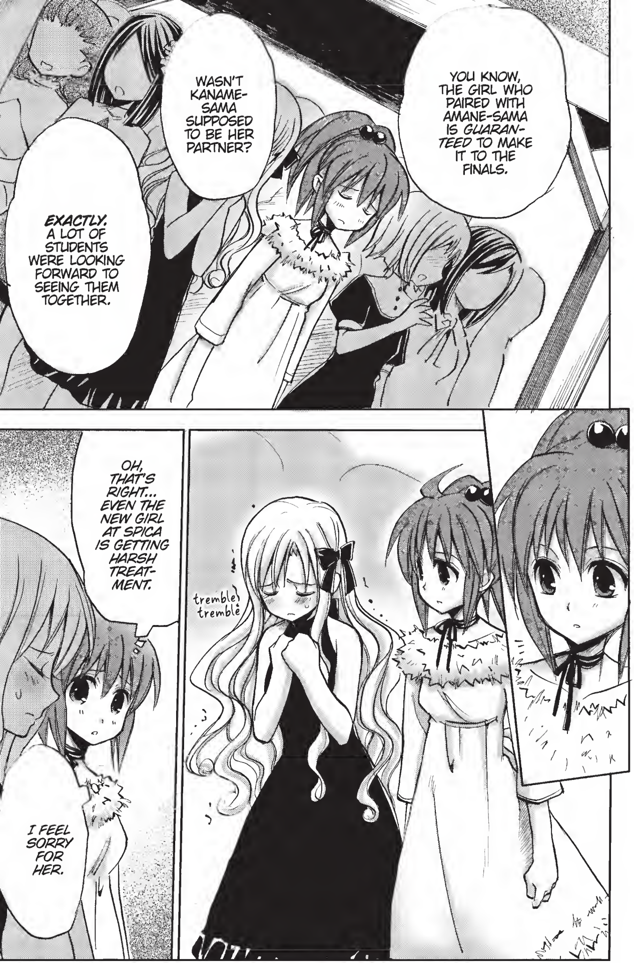

THE WHITE HORSE IS NAMED **STARBRIGHT.**
AMANE-CHAN REALLY LOOKS LIKE A GALLANT PRINCE ON IT, DOESN'T SHE?
THE JET-BLACK ONE THERE IS NAMED ***L'ÉCLAIR NOIR.***
HANAZONO SHIZUMA-SAMA IS RIDING THAT ONE.
AND WITH HER BLACK RIDING JACKET AND HORSE, SHE CONTRASTS *NICELY* WITH AMANE-CHAN.
THOSE TWO WILL PROBABLY RUN A DEAD HEAT FOR FIRST PLACE.
HEH. THIS'LL BE FUN. ♡

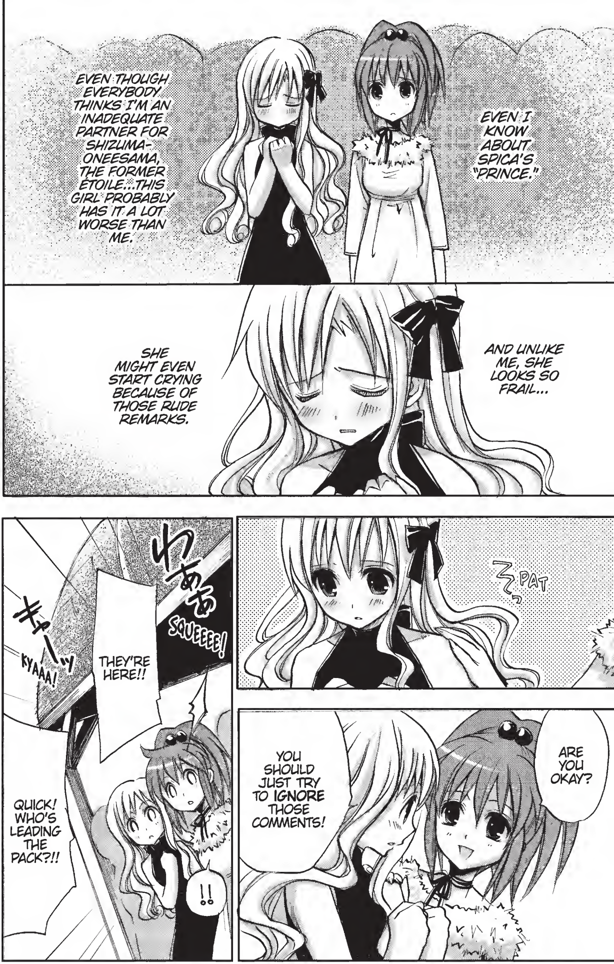

AH... AMANE-SAMA'S WHITE HORSE STANDS OUT SO MUCH.
SHE'S THE TOP RIDER ON SPICA'S HORSE RIDING TEAM. **NO ONE** CAN BEAT HER!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
SHE WON'T HAVE AN EASY TIME WINNING WITH SHIZUMA-SAMA AROUND.
BUT... I SERIOUSLY **DOUBT** THAT YOUR RIDER IS AS *GOOD* AS AMANE-SAMA.
THINK AGAIN. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FAST SHIZUMA-SAMA CAN BE WHEN SHE'S *SERIOUS!*
HEH HEH... HEH HEH HEH...
TWITCH TWITCH
EH HEH HEH HEH...

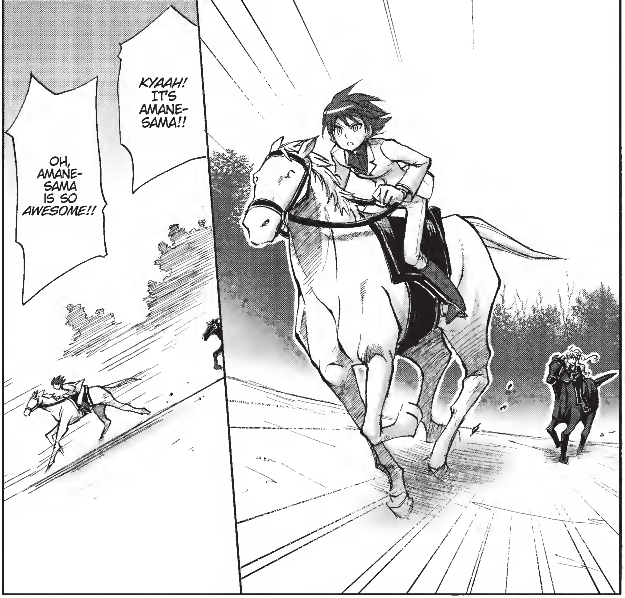

FUYAAA!
GALLOP
AH! IT STARTED!
Wooo!
GO FOR IT, AMANE-SAMA!!
WELL... EVEN IF IT'S FOR MIATOR, I CAN'T WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT SHIZUMA-SAMA. I JUST HAVE TOO MANY **MIXED FEELINGS...**
KYAAA!
I WONDER IF NAGISA IS DOING OKAY UP IN THAT HIGH TOWER.
I HOPE SHE'S NOT AFRAID OF HEIGHTS.
SHE WASN'T EXACTLY HERSELF YESTERDAY, EITHER.
I'M WORRIED...

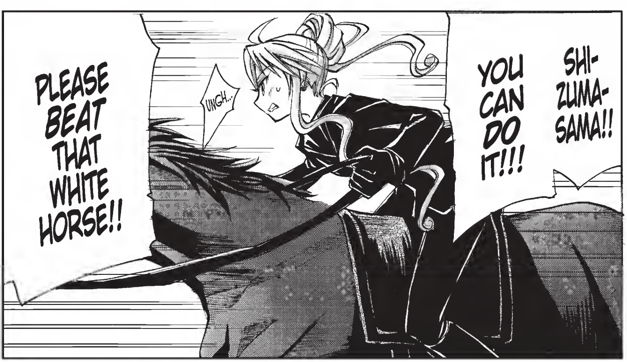

ヒュウゥ
foooooo
ウゥ..
HEY, DON'T PUSH ME!
ぎゅう
CROWD
I CAN'T HELP IT!
ARGH, IT'S SO TIGHT IN HERE!
ぎゅう
CROWD
IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE WHO JOINED AT THE LAST MINUTE.
WHISPER WHISPER
AND THEY'RE BOTH TRANSFER STUDENTS, TOO. THEY STICK OUT LIKE SORE THUMBS.
YEAH, THE *CADETTE* EVENT HAD TO BE CHANGED JUST FOR THEM.
IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK THEY WERE GIVEN SPECIAL TREATMENT.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO EVERYONE ELSE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO BECOME A *CADETTE*.
YEAH... IT'S NOT FAIR.

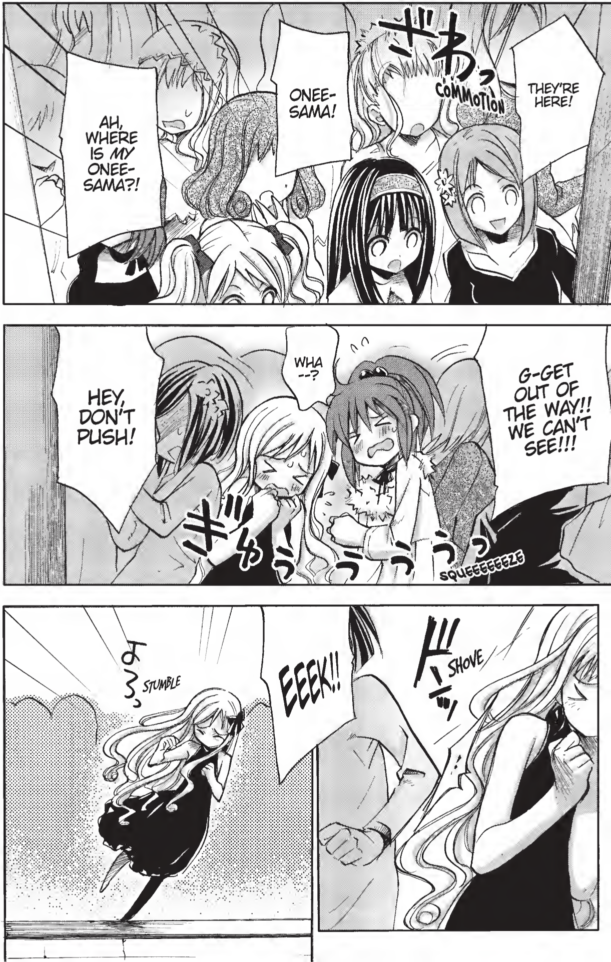

OHH... THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT ME.
GOSH...I SURE MADE SO MANY PEOPLE **ANGRY.**
TAMAO-CHAN AND THE OTHERS MADE ME SUCH A CUTE OUTFIT FOR THIS OCCASION...
BUT I PROBABLY WON'T WIN ANYWAY.
AND SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA PROBABLY ISN'T SERIOUS ABOUT ME.
AWW, I WISH THIS AÎNÉE EVENT WOULD JUST END ALREADY!
I'M... NOT SURE WHAT TO DO ANYMORE...

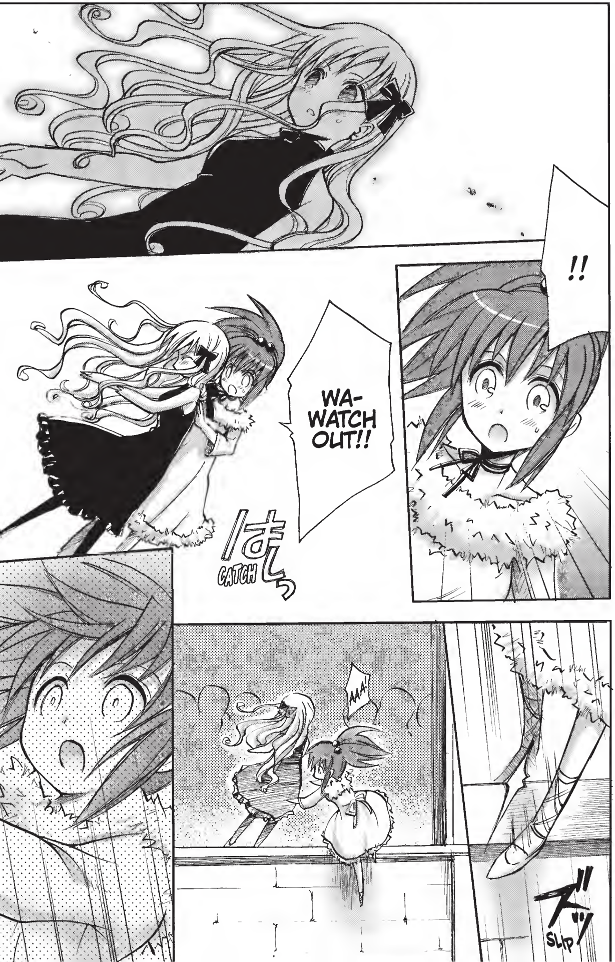

YOU KNOW, THE GIRL WHO PAIRED WITH AMANE-SAMA IS *GUARANTEED* TO MAKE IT TO THE FINALS.
WASN'T KANAME-SAMA SUPPOSED TO BE HER PARTNER?
EXACTLY. A LOT OF STUDENTS WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THEM TOGETHER.
tremble tremble
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... EVEN THE NEW GIRL AT SPICA IS GETTING HARSH TREATMENT.
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.

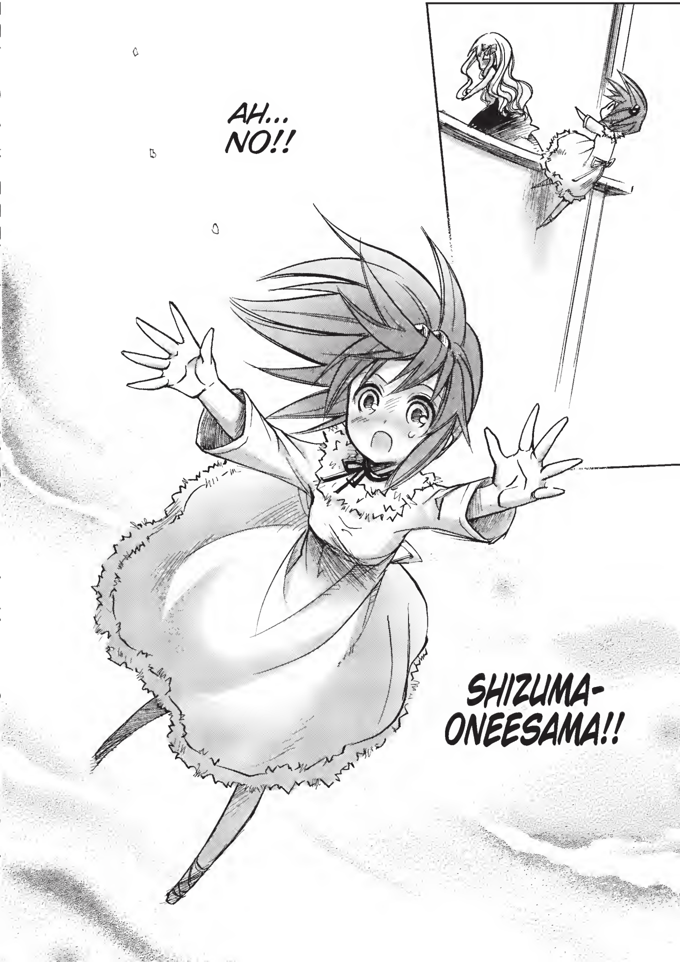

EVEN I KNOW ABOUT SPICA'S "PRINCE."
EVEN THOUGH EVERYBODY THINKS I'M AN INADEQUATE PARTNER FOR SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA, THE FORMER ÉTOILE...THIS GIRL PROBABLY HAS IT A LOT WORSE THAN ME.
AND UNLIKE ME, SHE LOOKS SO FRAIL...
SHE MIGHT EVEN START CRYING BECAUSE OF THOSE RUDE REMARKS.
PAT
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU SHOULD JUST TRY TO IGNORE THOSE COMMENTS!
わぁぁ
SQUEEEE!
THEY'RE HERE!!
キャーッ
KYAAA!
QUICK! WHO'S LEADING THE PACK?!!
!!


KYAAH! IT'S AMANE-SAMA!!
OH, AMANE-SAMA IS SO AWESOME!!

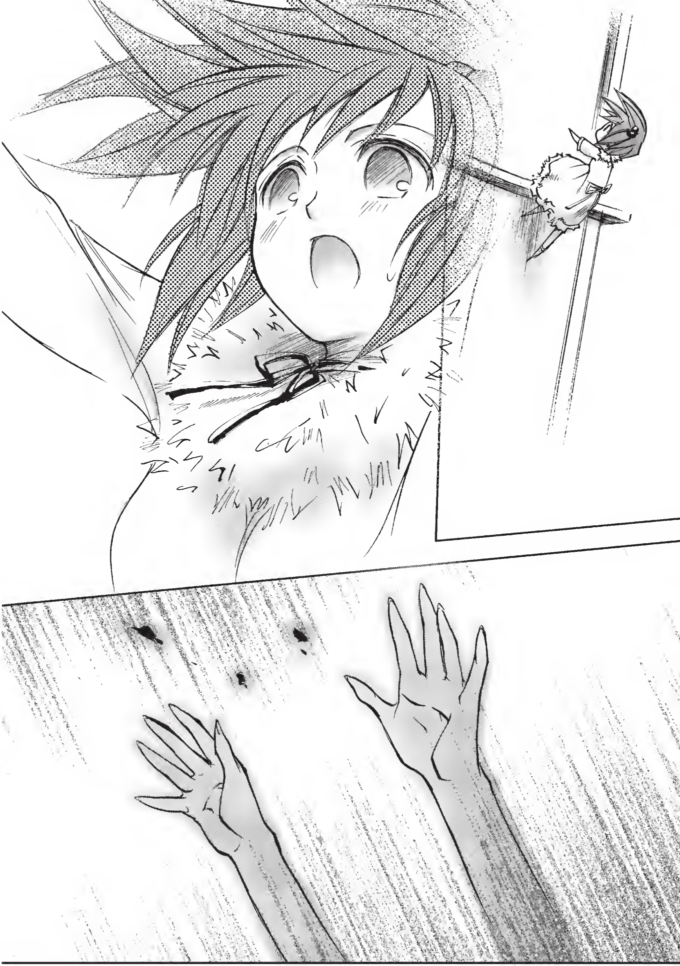

SHIZUMA-SAMA!!
YOU CAN DO IT!!!
UNGH...
PLEASE BEAT THAT WHITE HORSE!!

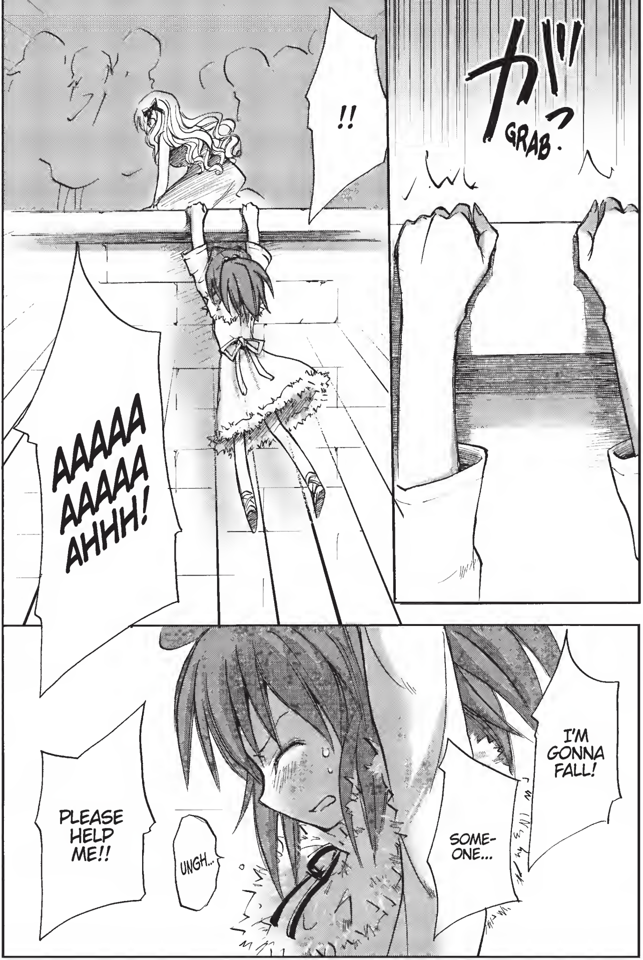

THEY'RE HERE!
ざわっ
COMMOTION
ONEE-SAMA!
AH, WHERE IS *MY* ONEE-SAMA?!
G-GET OUT OF THE WAY!! WE CAN'T SEE!!!
WHA--?
HEY, DON'T PUSH!
ぎゅううううっ
SQUEEEEEEEZE
ドンッ
SHOVE
EEEK!!
よろっ
STUMBLE

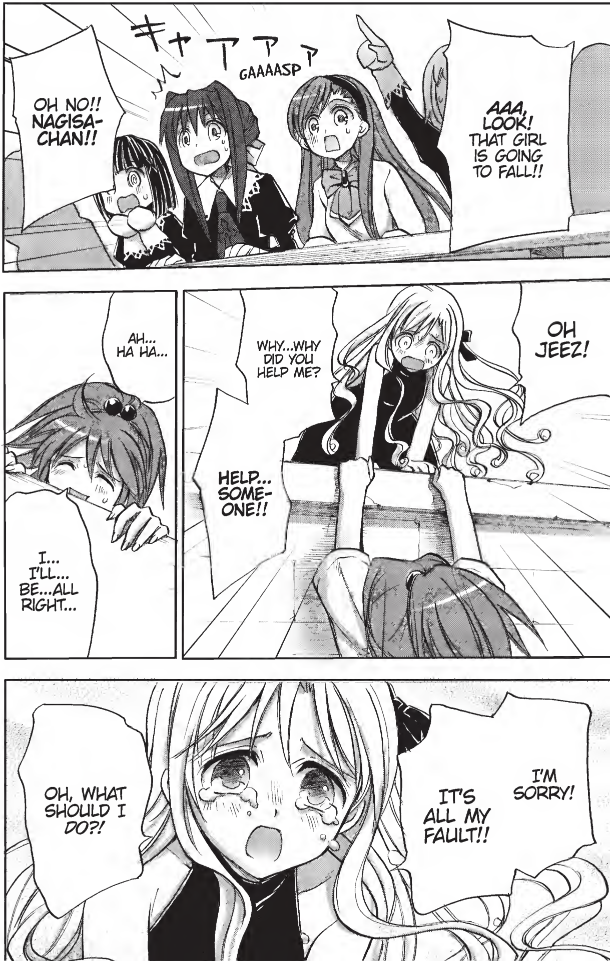

!!
WA-WATCH OUT!!
はしっ CATCH
ズッ SLIP
AAA!

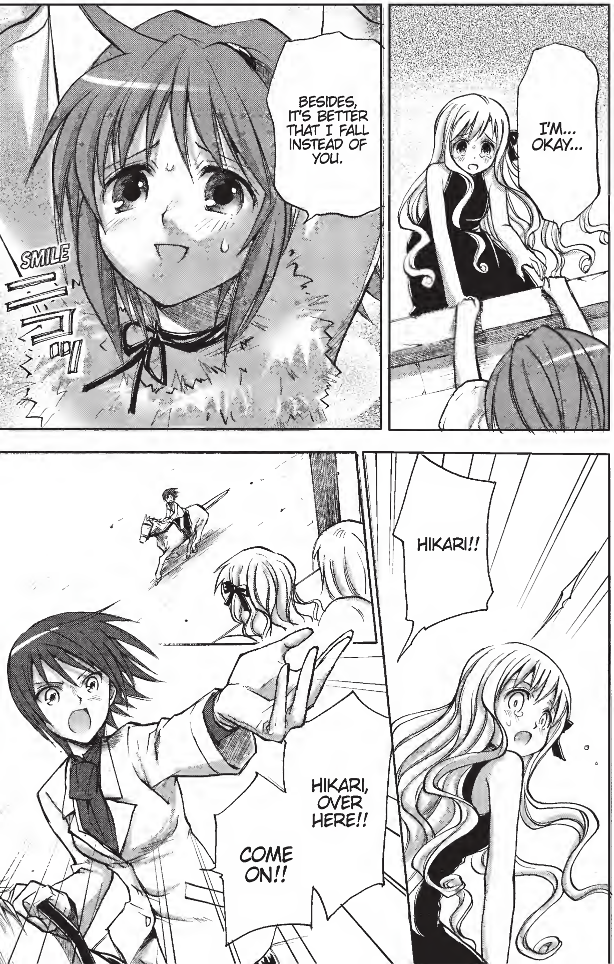

AH...
NO!!
SHIZUMA-
ONEESAMA!!

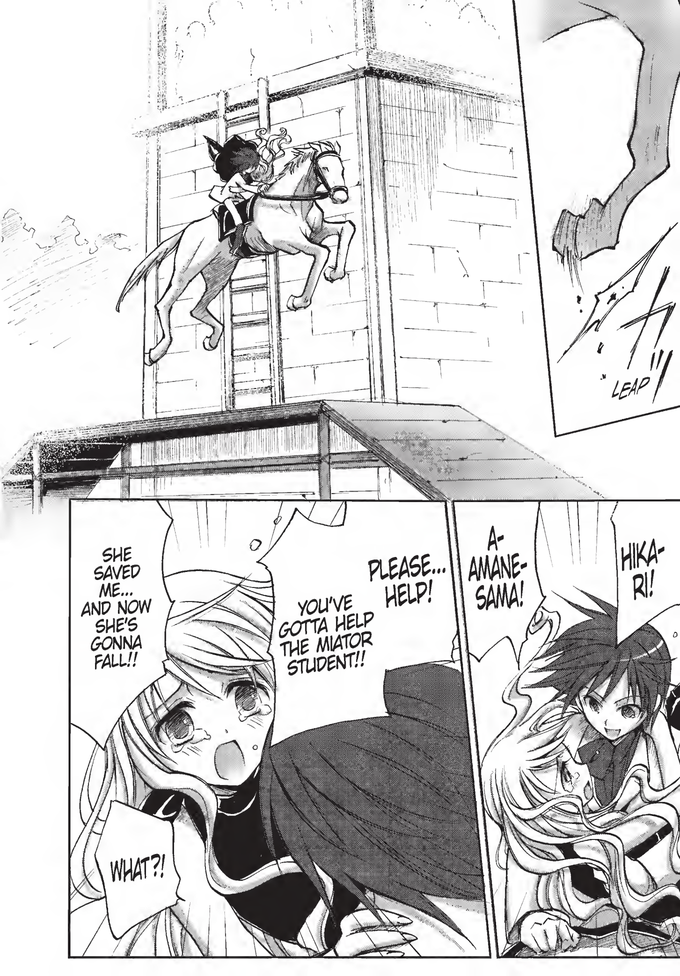
Chapter 12: Little Crown

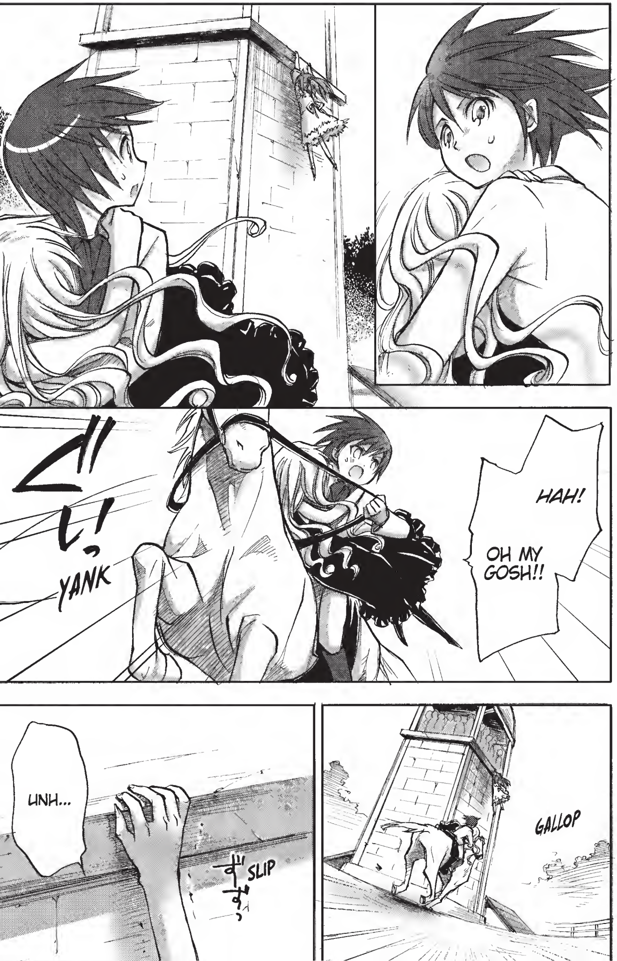


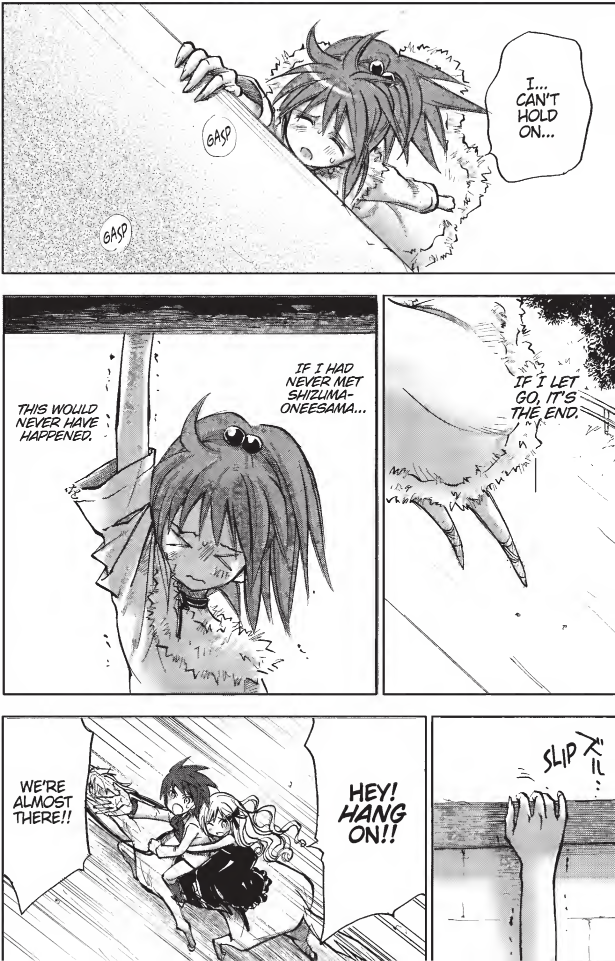

ガッ
GRAB
!!
AAAAAAAAAAAHHH!
I'M GONNA FALL!
SOME-ONE...
UNGH...
PLEASE HELP ME!!

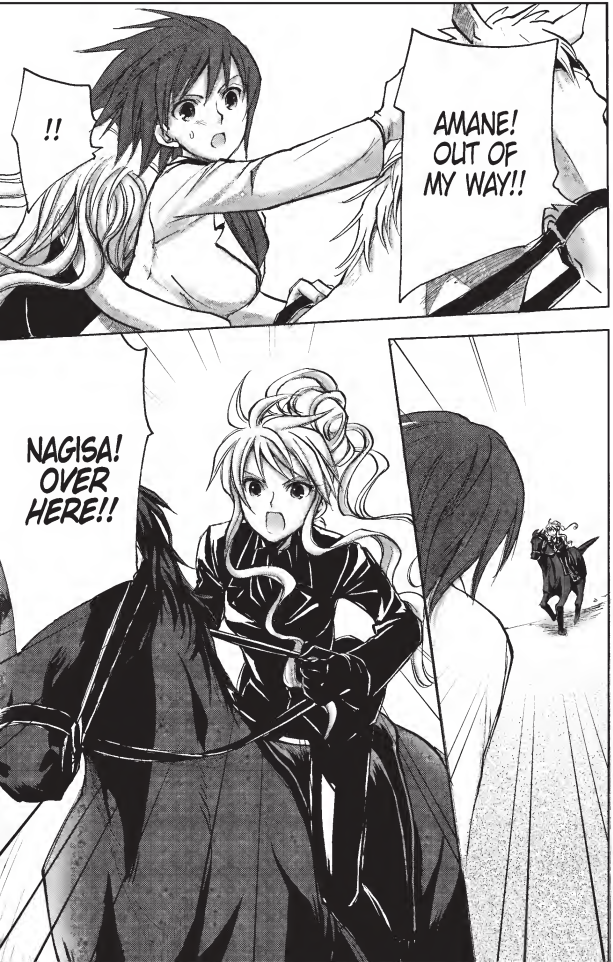

AAA, LOOK! THAT GIRL IS GOING TO FALL!!
キャアアァ
GAAAASP
OH NO!! NAGISA-CHAN!!
OH JEEZ!
WHY...WHY DID YOU HELP ME?
HELP... SOMEONE!!
AH... HA HA...
I... I'LL... BE...ALL RIGHT...
I'M SORRY!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!
OH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?!

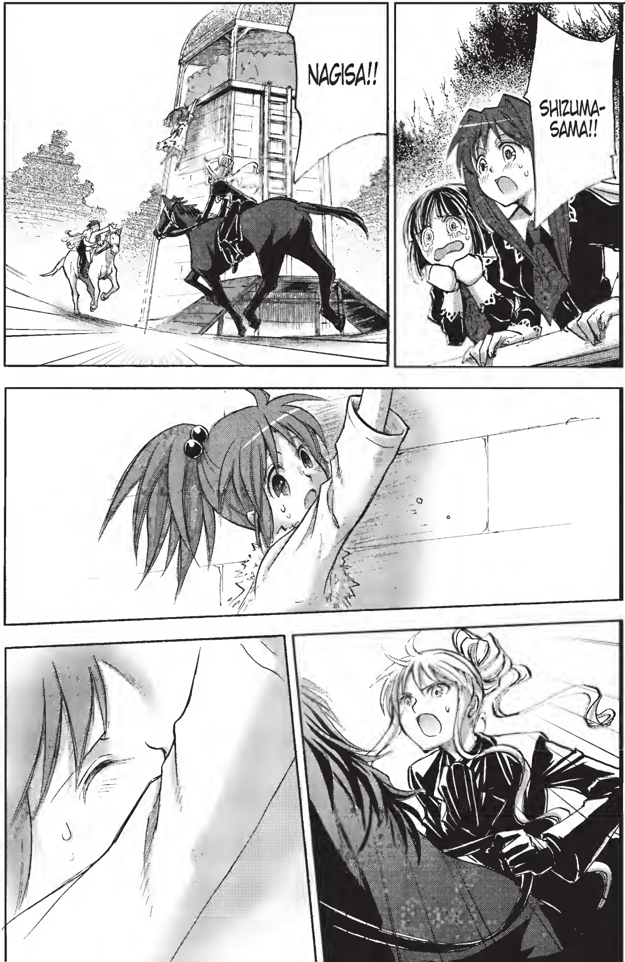

I'M... OKAY...
BESIDES, IT'S BETTER THAT I FALL INSTEAD OF YOU.
SMILE
ニコッ
HIKARI!!
HIKARI, OVER HERE!!
COME ON!!

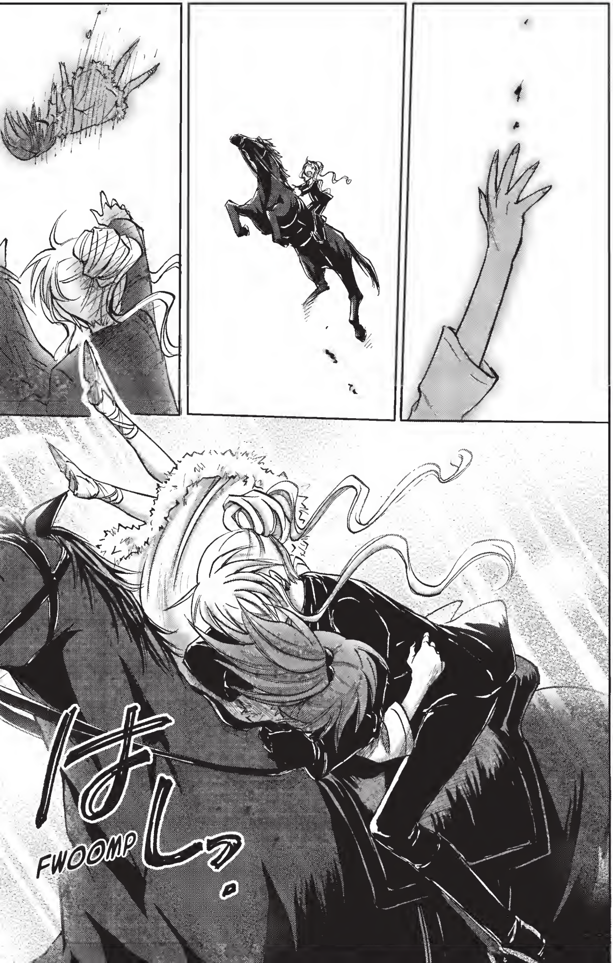

LEAP
HIKA-RI!
A-AMANE-SAMA!
PLEASE... HELP!
YOU'VE GOTTA HELP THE MIATOR STUDENT!!
SHE SAVED ME... AND NOW SHE'S GONNA FALL!!
WHAT?!

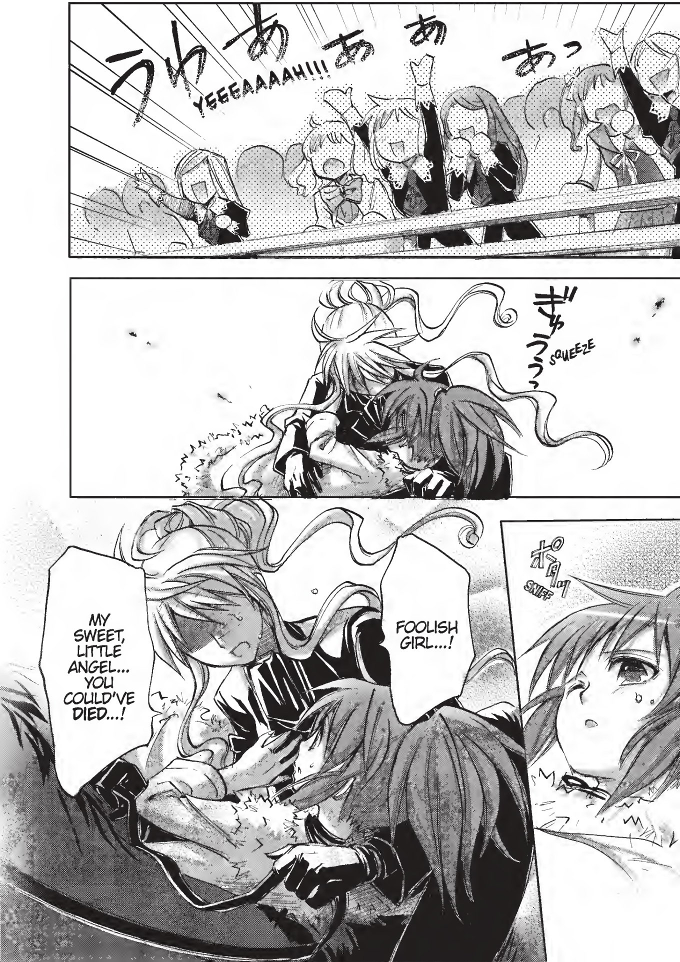

HAH!
OH MY GOSH!!
ぐいっ
YANK
GALLOP
UNH...
ずずっ
SLIP

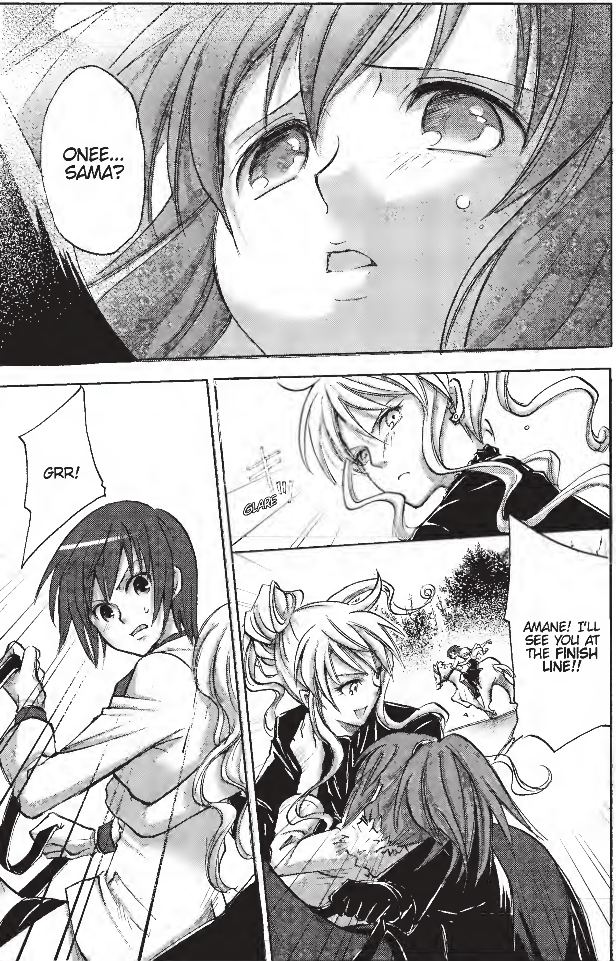

I... CAN'T HOLD ON...
GASP
GASP
IF I LET GO, IT'S THE END.
IF I HAD NEVER MET SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...
THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.
SLIP ズル…
HEY! HANG ON!!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!!

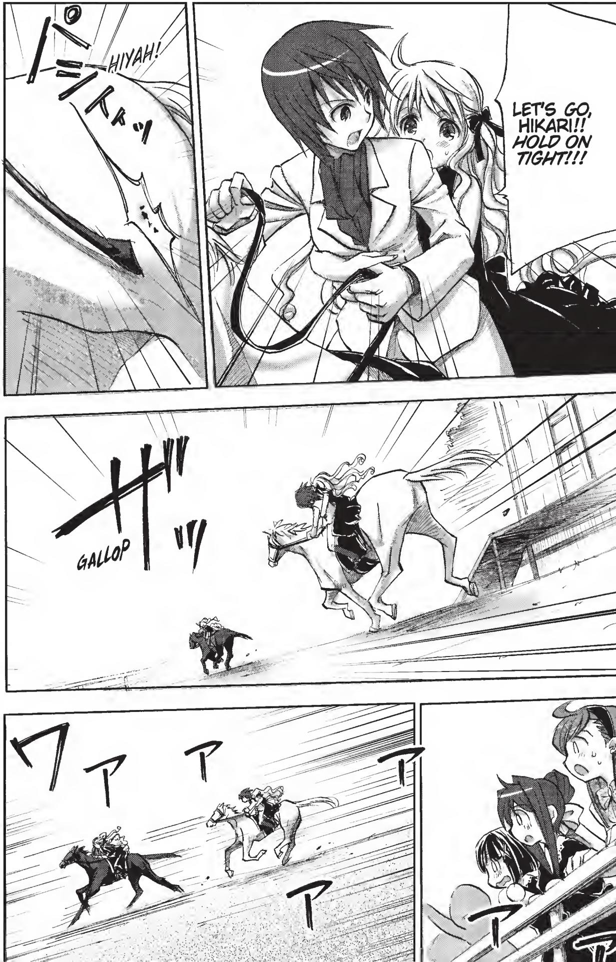

AMANE! OUT OF MY WAY!!
!!
NAGISA! OVER HERE!!

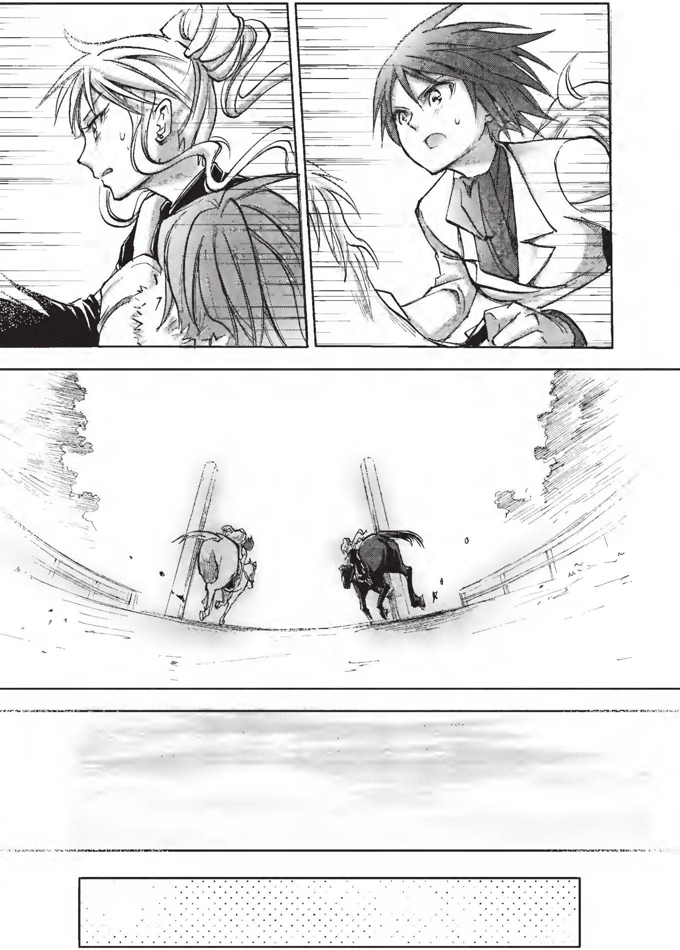

SHIZUMA-SAMA!!
NAGISA!!

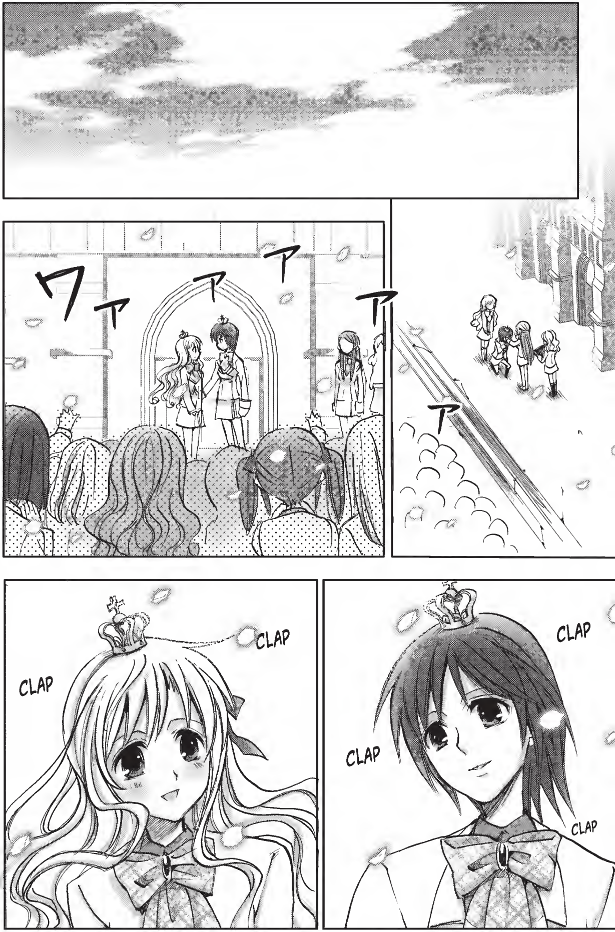

はしっ
FWOOMP

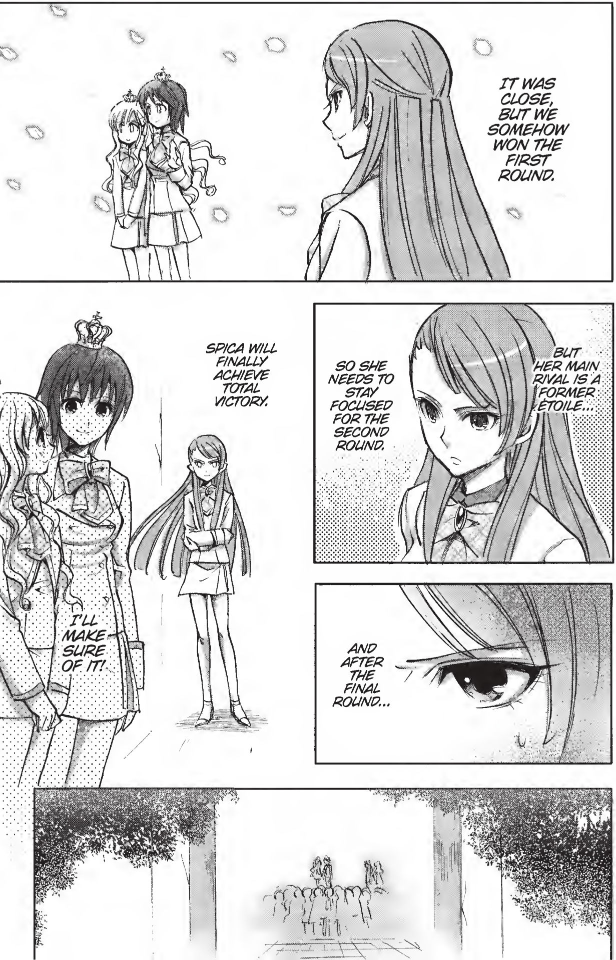

うわあああ あっ
YEEEAAAAAH!!!
ぎゅううっ
SQUEEZE
ポタッ
SNIFF
FOOLISH GIRL...!
MY SWEET, LITTLE ANGEL... YOU COULD'VE DIED...!

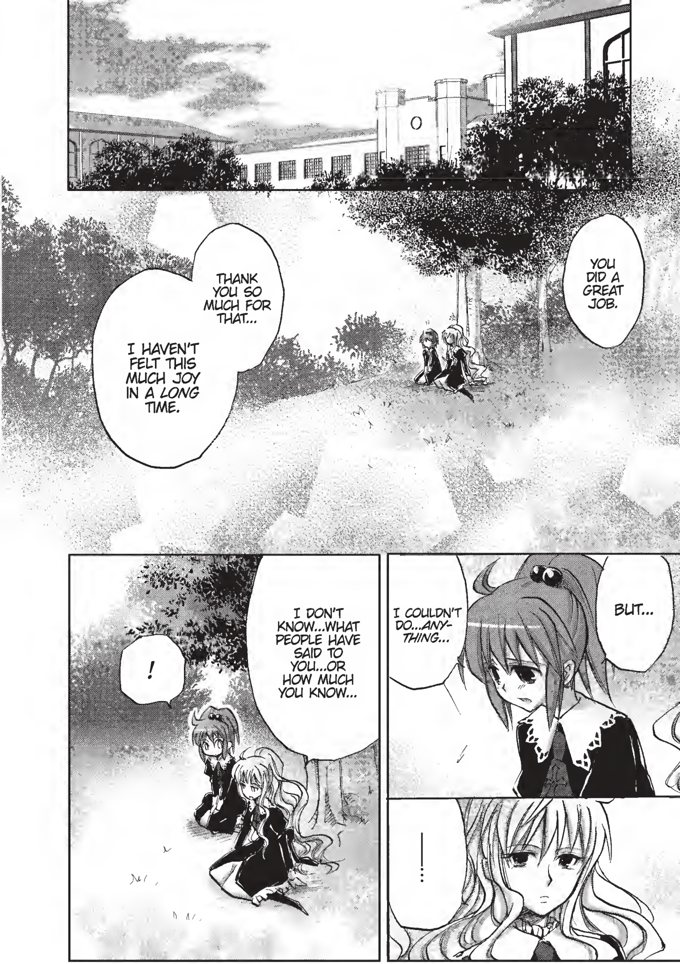

ONEE... SAMA?
GLARE
AMANE! I'LL SEE YOU AT THE FINISH LINE!!
GRR!

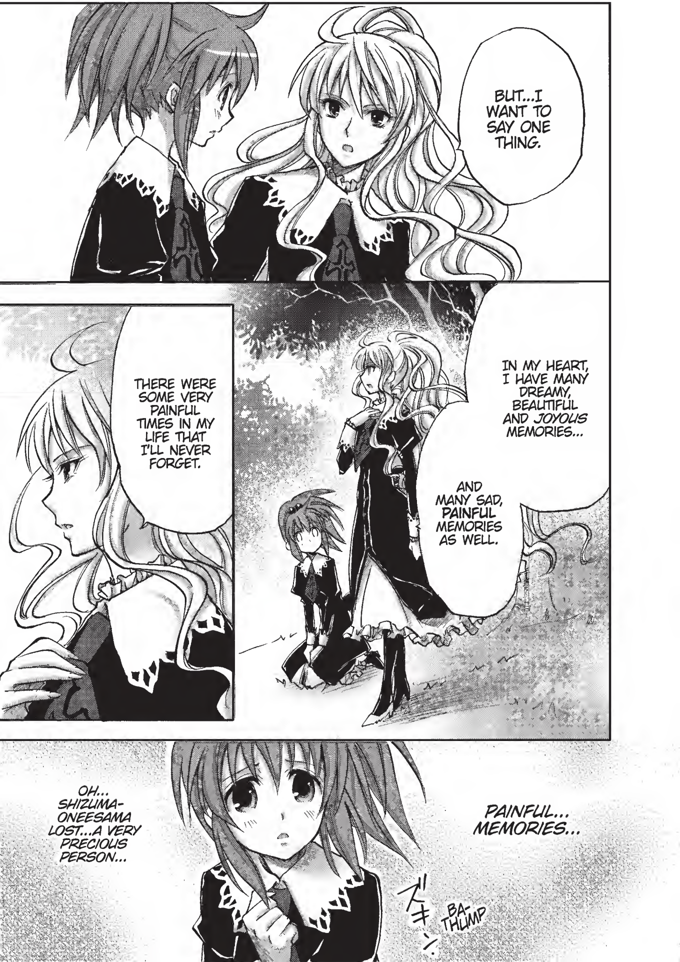

LET'S GO, HIKARI!! HOLD ON TIGHT!!!
パシィィッ
HIYAH!
ザッ
GALLOP
ワァァァ
ァ
ァ

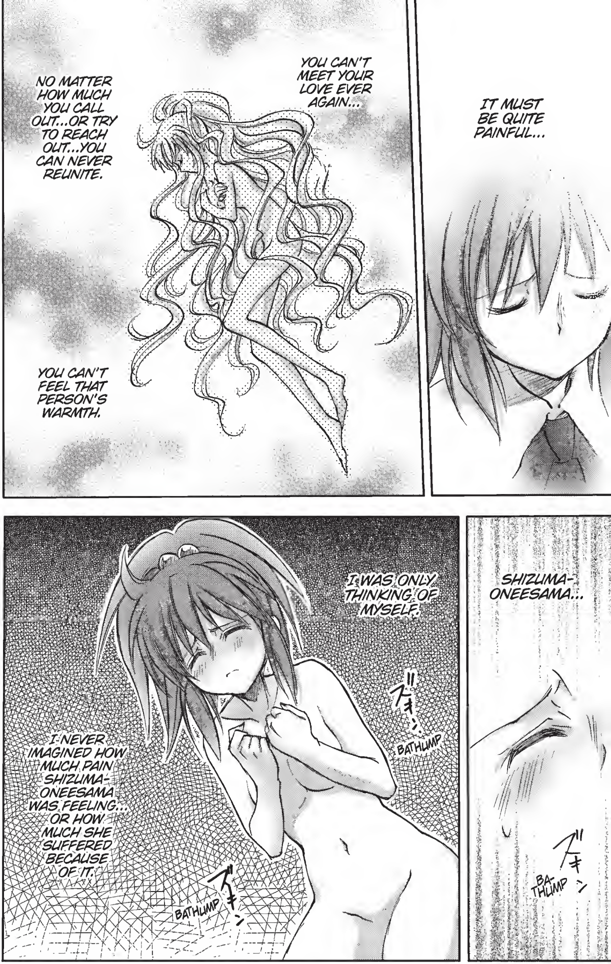


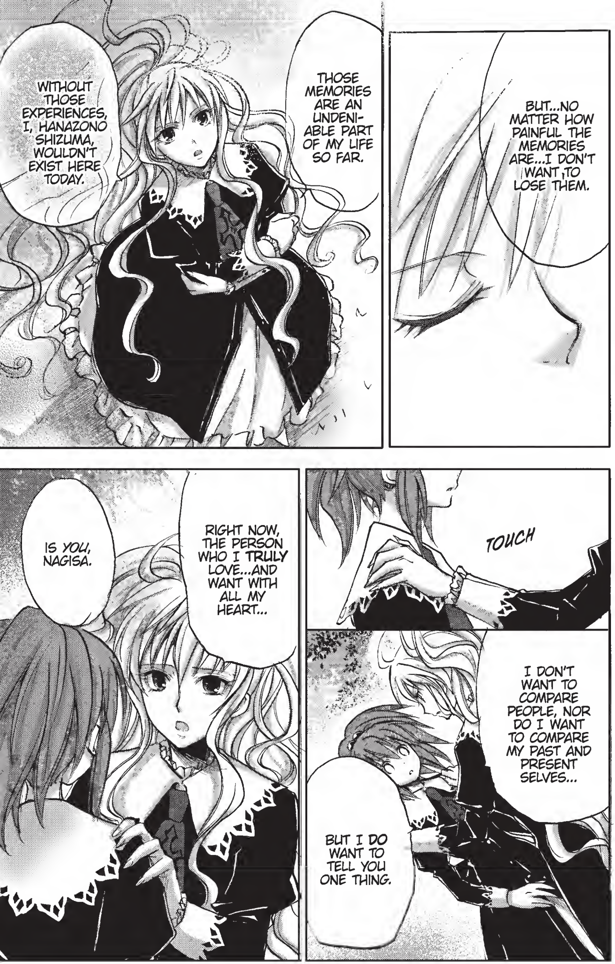

ア
ワァアアア
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

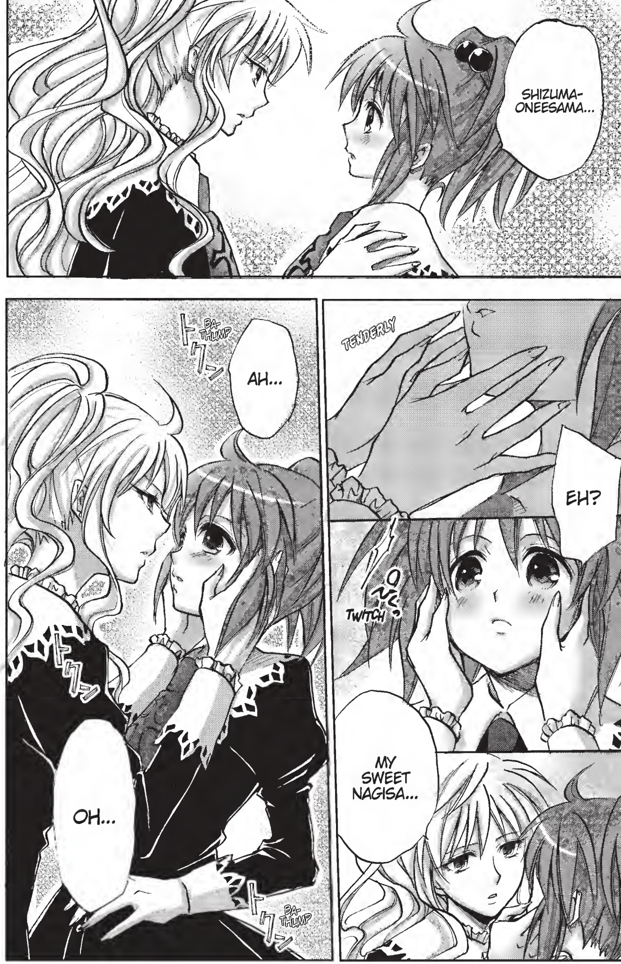

IT WAS CLOSE, BUT WE SOMEHOW WON THE FIRST ROUND.
BUT HER MAIN RIVAL IS A FORMER ÉTOILE...
SO SHE NEEDS TO STAY FOCUSED FOR THE SECOND ROUND.
AND AFTER THE FINAL ROUND...
SPICA WILL FINALLY ACHIEVE TOTAL VICTORY.
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT!

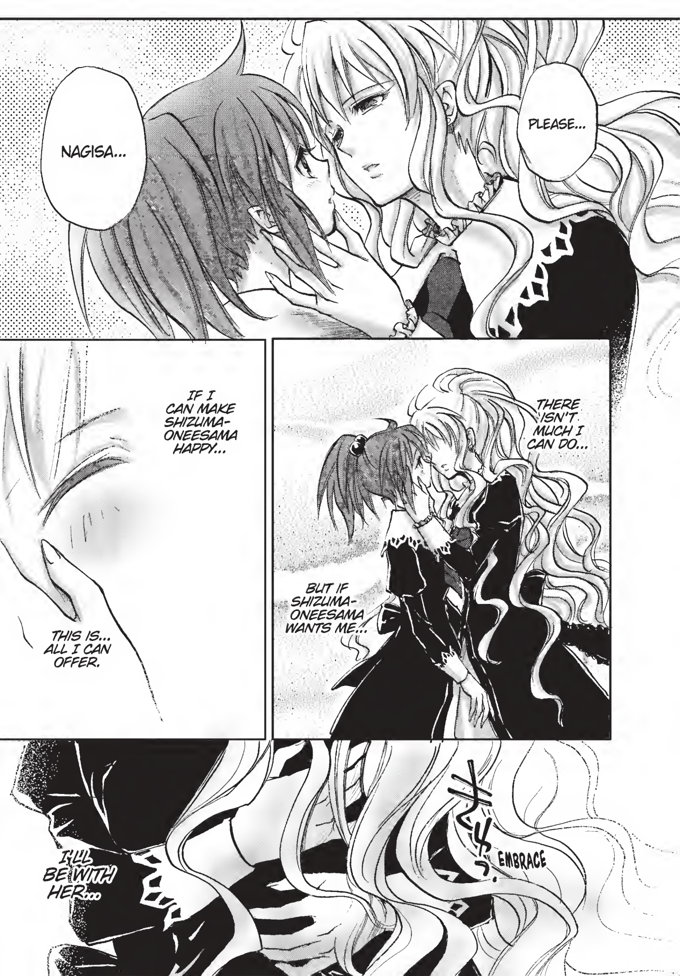

YOU DID A GREAT JOB.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THAT...
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS MUCH JOY IN A *LONG* TIME.
BUT...
I COULDN'T DO...ANY-*THING*...
—...
I DON'T KNOW...WHAT PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO YOU...OR HOW MUCH YOU KNOW...
!

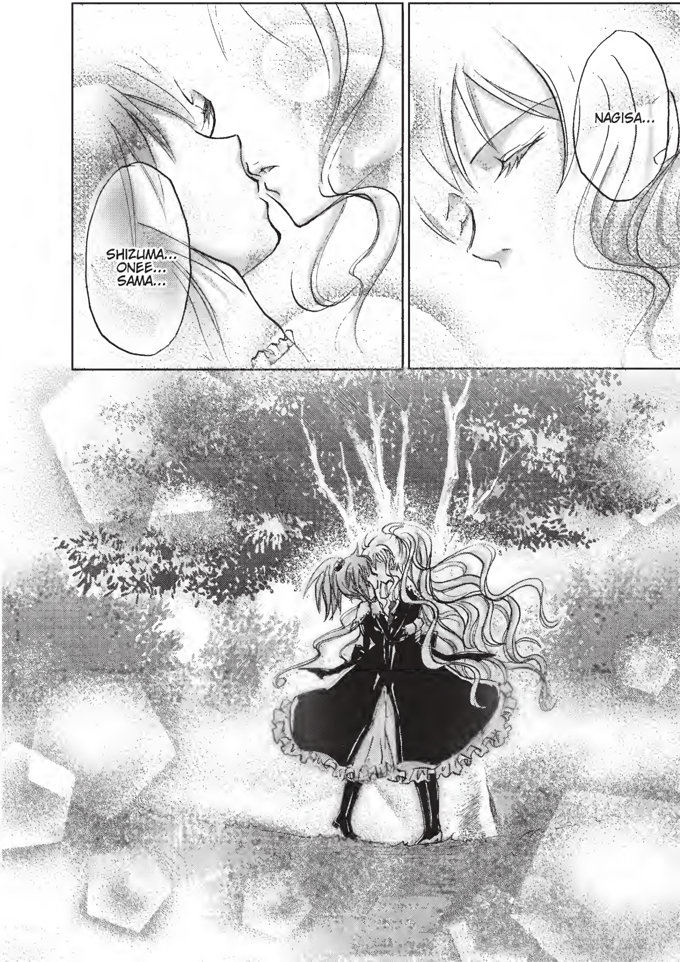

BUT...I WANT TO SAY ONE THING.
IN MY HEART, I HAVE MANY DREAMY, BEAUTIFUL AND JOYOUS MEMORIES...
AND MANY SAD, PAINFUL MEMORIES AS WELL.
THERE WERE SOME VERY PAINFUL TIMES IN MY LIFE THAT I'LL NEVER FORGET.
PAINFUL... MEMORIES...
OH... SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA LOST...A VERY PRECIOUS PERSON...
ズキン
BA-THUMP


IT MUST BE QUITE PAINFUL...
YOU CAN'T MEET YOUR LOVE EVER AGAIN...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU CALL OUT...OR TRY TO REACH OUT...YOU CAN NEVER REUNITE.
YOU CAN'T FEEL THAT PERSON'S WARMTH.
SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...
ズキン
BA-THUMP
I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF.
ズキ‼
BATHUMP
I NEVER IMAGINED HOW MUCH PAIN SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA WAS FEELING... OR HOW MUCH SHE SUFFERED BECAUSE OF IT.
ズキン
BATHUMP


BUT...NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL THE MEMORIES ARE...I DON'T WANT TO LOSE THEM.
THOSE MEMORIES ARE AN UNDENIABLE PART OF MY LIFE SO FAR.
WITHOUT THOSE EXPERIENCES, I, HANAZONO SHIZUMA, WOULDN'T EXIST HERE TODAY.
TOUCH
I DON'T WANT TO COMPARE PEOPLE, NOR DO I WANT TO COMPARE MY PAST AND PRESENT SELVES...
BUT I DO WANT TO TELL YOU ONE THING.
RIGHT NOW, THE PERSON WHO I **TRULY** LOVE...AND WANT WITH ALL MY HEART...
IS *YOU*, NAGISA.


SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA...
TENDERLY
EH?
ピクッ
TWITCH
MY SWEET NAGISA...
トクン
BA-THUMP
AH...
トクン
OH...
トクン
BA-THUMP


PLEASE...
NAGISA...
THERE ISN'T MUCH I CAN DO...
BUT IF SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA WANTS ME...
IF I CAN MAKE SHIZUMA-ONEESAMA HAPPY...
THIS IS... ALL I CAN OFFER.
ぎゅっ
EMBRACE
I'LL BE WITH HER...

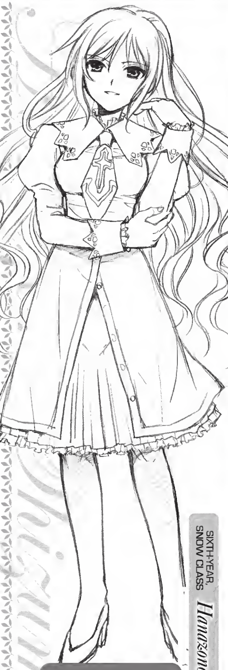

NAGISA...
SHIZUMA... ONEE... SAMA...

Astraea Directory

Surrounding a convent are three prestigious all-girls schools: St. Miator, St. Spica and St. Lulim. Tumultuous stories of love and turbulence take place here, atop Astraea Hill. Let's introduce the beautiful, refined students of the three schools in *Strawberry Panic!*

ST. MIATOR GIRLS' ACADEMY

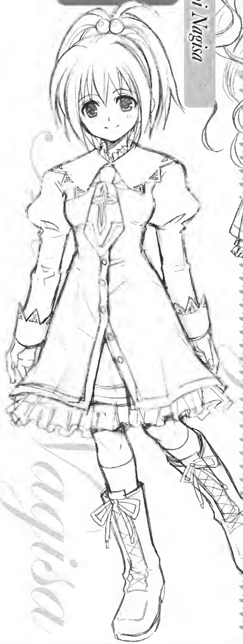
The oldest of the three schools, St. Miator has many students from affluent families and is known for its strict education policies. More than half of the students are engaged by the time they graduate.



SIXTH-YEAR, SNOW CLASS

Hanazono Shizuma

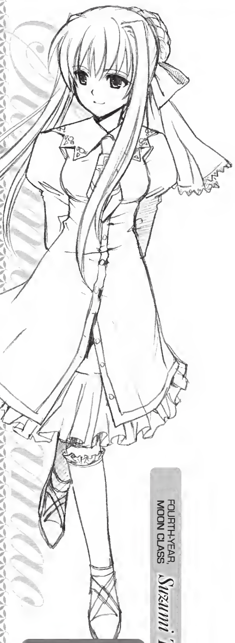
The daughter of a prominent family, Shizuma has been the center of attention ever since childhood and is now queen of the campus. She's a former Étoile who met Nagisa and decided to join the Étoile Competition again this year.



FOURTH-YEAR, MOON CLASS

Aoi Nagisa

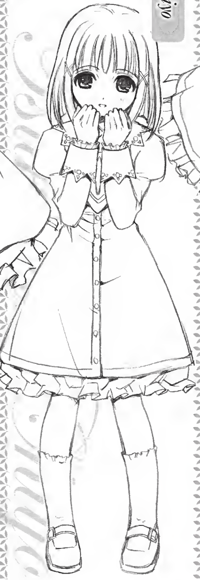
An honest, cheery, normal girl, Nagisa was immediately noticed by Shizuma upon transfer to St. Miator. They participate in the Étoile competition together.



FOURTH-YEAR, MOON CLASS

Suzumi Tamao

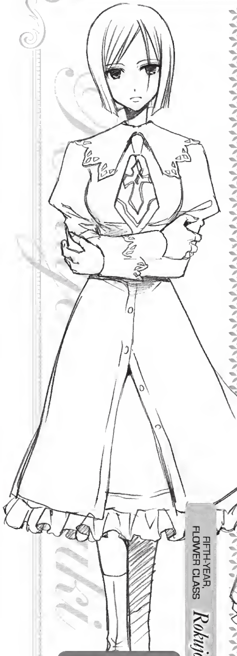
Tamao is Nagisa's classmate, roommate and closest friend. She is really nice, but loves to tease Nagisa. She's a Literature Club member.



FIRST-YEAR, FLOWER CLASS

Tsukidate Chiyo

Chiyo is a librarian who is timid and cries easily but can be strong at heart. Chiyo has attended St. Miator since elementary school. She admires Nagisa.



FIFTH-YEAR, FLOWER CLASS

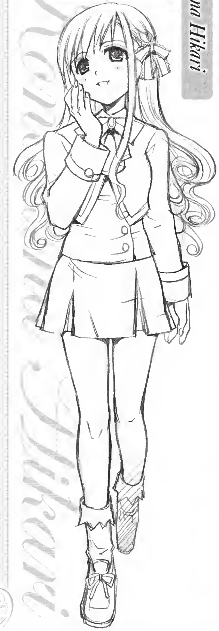
Rokujo Miyuki

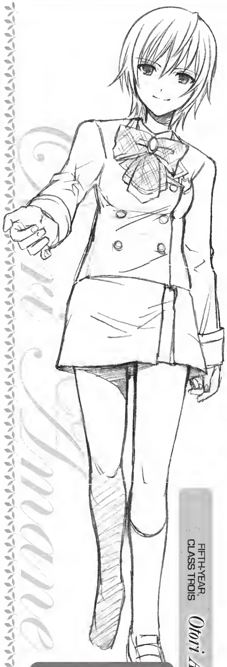
Miyuki is Student Council President for St. Miator Girls' Academy. Nicknamed "Princess of Rokujo-in," Miyuki is known for being a strategist.

Konohana Hikari

THIRD-YEAR, CLASS UN

Hikari is a very beautiful girl who loves beautiful things. She has admired Amane ever since their first encounter, when she had just transferred to St. Spica Girls' Institute.





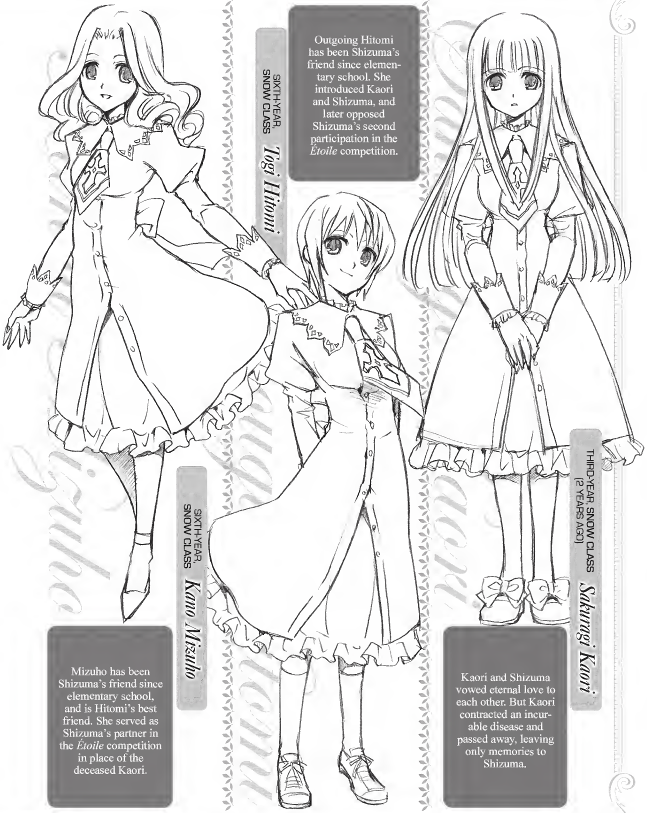
Otori Amane

FIFTH-YEAR, CLASS TROIS

Number one of the top five stars of the Institute, Amane is admired for her prince-like, handsome appearance and demeanor. She fell in love with Hikari and entered the *Étoile* competition with her.

ST. SPICA GIRLS' INSTITUTE

Built after St. Miator, St. Spica aims to develop independent women who will make great contributions to modern society. The school has many sports clubs, with horse-riding grounds and pool facilities built on campus.



Togi Hitomi

SIXTH-YEAR, SNOW CLASS

Outgoing Hitomi has been Shizuma's friend since elementary school. She introduced Kaori and Shizuma, and later opposed Shizuma's second participation in the *Étoile* competition.

Kano Mizuho

SIXTH-YEAR, SNOW CLASS

Mizuho has been Shizuma's friend since elementary school, and is Hitomi's best friend. She served as Shizuma's partner in the *Étoile* competition in place of the deceased Kaori.

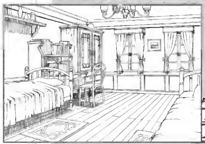
Sakuragi Kaori

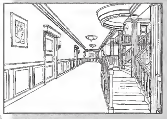
THIRD-YEAR, SNOW CLASS (2 YEARS AGO)

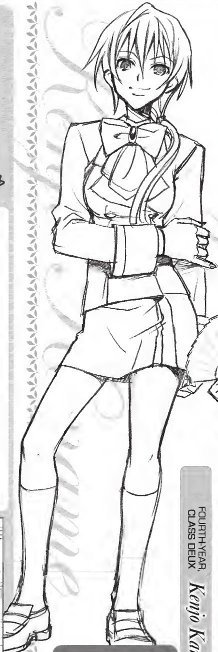
Kaori and Shizuma vowed eternal love to each other. But Kaori contracted an incurable disease and passed away, leaving only memories to Shizuma.

What are the Strawberry Dorms?

Officially named Astraea Hall, these are dormitories for students living far from school. Many affluent families send their daughters to live in the dorms for the strict discipline and to experience the collective living environment. They're called the Strawberry Dorms because the building looks triangular when viewed from above. Students need permission from a nun or dorm manager to visit other schools' dorms. All of the students who were introduced live in these dorms.

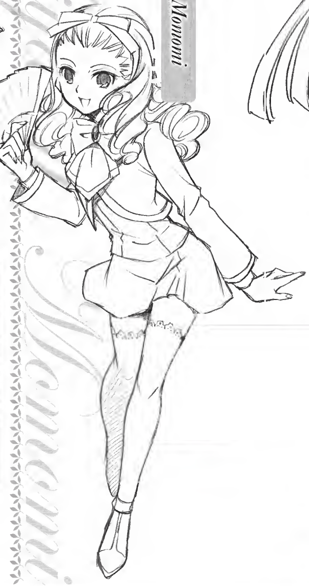

Room


Hallway



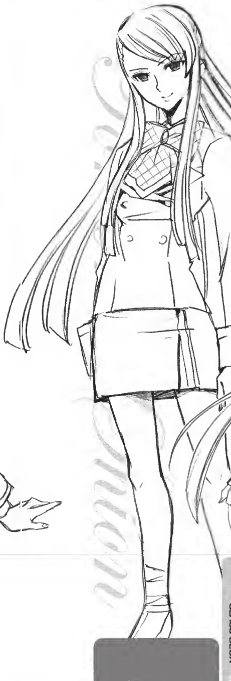
Kenjo Kaname
FOURTH-YEAR, CLASS DEUX

Kaname is another one of the top five stars of the Institute, with dark skin, long limbs and stormy good looks. She is a self-proclaimed number-one Amane fan, and a former Amane Fan Club President.



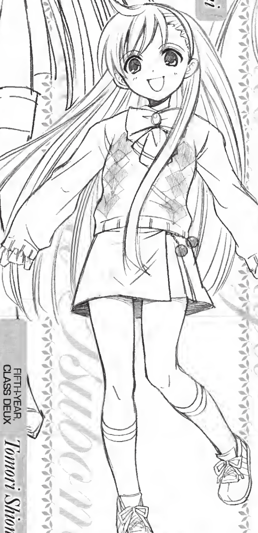
Kiyashiki Momomi
FIFTH-YEAR, CLASS UN

With her hair in spiral curls, Momomi doesn't look Japanese, but she's one of the top five stars of the Institute and St. Spica's Student Council Vice President. Her trademark is her foldable fan.



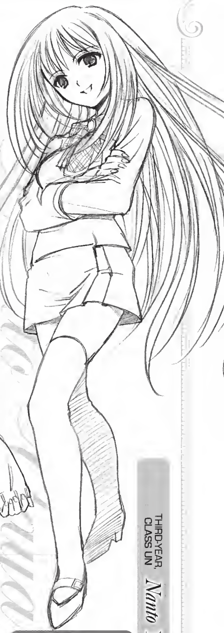
Tomori Shion
FIFTH-YEAR, CLASS DEUX

Nicknamed "Snow Empress," Shion is the most intelligent student in St. Spica's history. As St. Spica's Student Council President, she has plans for Amane to take the *Étoile* crown.



Okuwaka Tsubomi
FIRST-YEAR, CLASS DEUX

Tsubomi has been a St. Spica student since kindergarten, and currently serves as St. Spica Student Council Secretary. She's popular among the upperclassmen for her cheery, outgoing personality, and brightens the mood wherever she goes.

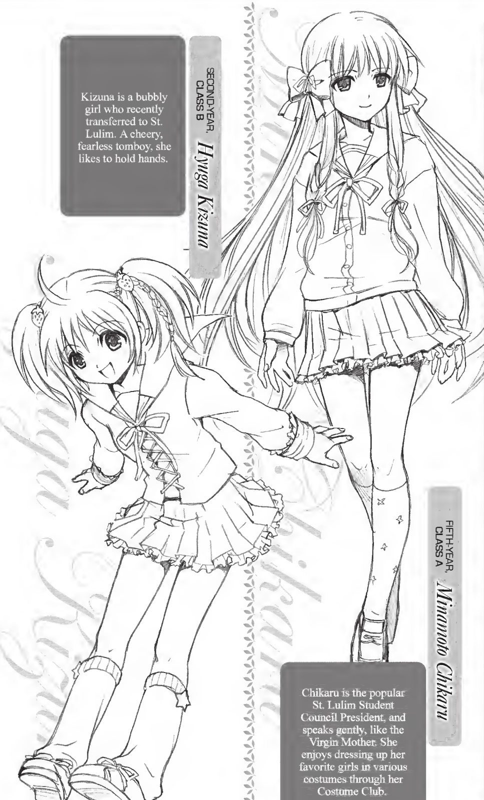


Nanto Yaya
THIRD-YEAR, CLASS UN

Yaya is Hikari's classmate, and comes from a well-established, aristocratic family. She is very amorous, but only seems to be interested in girls. Yaya makes aggressive advances toward Hikari.

ST. LULIM GIRLS' SCHOOL

St. Lulim is the sister school built the most recently. Its policy is to create a new generation of "good Japanese housewives," and it's more relaxed than the other schools. It has many active small-scale clubs with unusual themes.



FIFTH-YEAR, CLASS A

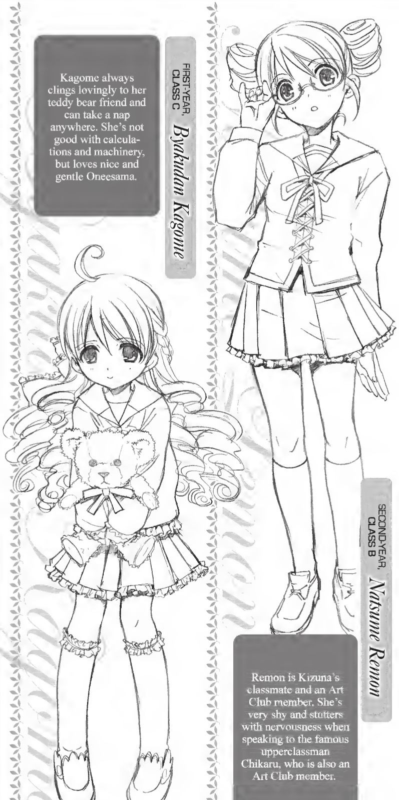
Minamoto Chikaru

Chikaru is the popular St. Lulim Student Council President, and speaks gently, like the Virgin Mother. She enjoys dressing up her favorite girls in various costumes through her Costume Club.

SECOND-YEAR, CLASS B

Hyuga Kizuna

Kizuna is a bubbly girl who recently transferred to St. Lulim. A cheery, fearless tomboy, she likes to hold hands.



SECOND-YEAR, CLASS B

Natsume Remon

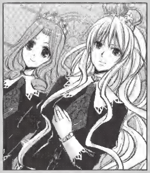
Remon is Kizuna's classmate and an Art Club member. She's very shy and stutters with nervousness when speaking to the famous upperclassman Chikaru, who is also an Art Club member.

FIRST-YEAR, CLASS C

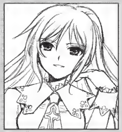
Byakudan Kagome

Kagome always clings lovingly to her teddy bear friend and can take a nap anywhere. She's not good with calculations and machinery, but loves nice and gentle Oneesama.

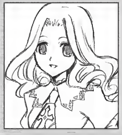
What is an Étoile Competition?



An Étoile is a couple, with a younger *Cadette* and older *Aînée.* Once a year, the three Astraea schools select an *Étoile* in a large tournament. There are three rounds, with one *Cadette* and one *Aînée* event per round. St. Miator's Shizuma and Mizuho won the *Étoile* crowns last year.



Previous *Étoile Aînée*
Hanazono Shizuma



Previous *Étoile Aînée*
Kano Mizuho

Sensei – Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

Oniisan – This title literally means "big brother." First and foremost, it is used by younger siblings towards older male siblings. It can be used by itself or attached to a person's name as a suffix (niisan). It is often used by a younger person toward an older person unrelated by blood, but as a sign of respect. Other forms include the informal "oniichan" and the more respectful "oniisama."

Oneesan – This title is the opposite of "oniisan" and means "big sister." Other forms include the informal "oneechan" and the more respectful "oneesama."

TRANSLATION NOTES

Aînée - Older sister

Cadette - Younger sister

Étoile - Star

Examen sur l'Astraea - Exam about Astraea

L'Ouverture Brillante - The brilliant overture (beginning)

JAPANESE HONORIFICS GUIDE

To ensure that all character relationships appear as they were originally intended, all character names have been kept in their original Japanese name order with family name first and given name second. For copyright reasons, creator names appear in standard English name order.

In addition to preserving the original Japanese name order, Seven Seas is committed to ensuring that honorifics—polite speech that indicates a person's status or relationship towards another individual—are retained within this book. Politeness is an integral facet of Japanese culture and we believe that maintaining honorifics in our translations helps bring out the same character nuances as seen in the original work.

The following are some of the more common honorifics you may come across while reading this and other books:

-san – The most common of all honorifics, it is an all-purpose suffix that can be used in any situation where politeness is expected. Generally seen as the equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs., etc.

-sama – This suffix is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect upon an individual.

-kun – This suffix is commonly used at the end of boys' names to express either familiarity or endearment. It can also be used when addressing someone younger than oneself or of a lower status.

-chan – Another common honorific. This suffix is mainly used to express endearment towards girls, but can also be used when referring to little boys or even pets. Couples are also known to use the term amongst each other to convey a sense of cuteness and intimacy.

Sempai – This title is used towards one's senior or "superior"in a particular group or organization. "Sempai" is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to upperclassmen as "sempai," though it is also commonly said by employees when addressing fellow employees who hold seniority in the workplace.

Strawberry Panic

Volume 2

story by Sakurako Kimino
art by Takuminamuchi

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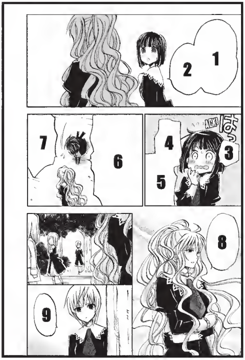
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

THEY'RE HEADED FOR THE EASTERN BRIDGE!!
HEY, IT'S STURCH!
THIS ISN'T OVER...YOU KNOW.
GRRRRR!!
BOSS!!

The End

YOU'RE READING THE WRONG WAY

This is the last page of
Strawberry Panic
Volume 2.


1
2
はっ
ACK!
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

This book reads from right to left, Japanese style. To read from the beginning, flip the book over to the other side, start with the top right panel, and take it from there.

If this is your first time reading manga, just follow the diagram. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get used to it! Have fun!

"Girl-Crushes Gone Wild!"
– Newtype USA

Just weeks ago, Aoi Nagisa was a bright and cheerful young girl starting her first day as the newest transfer student at St. Miator Girls' Academy. But today, her once clean reputation has been tarnished with vicious gossip and harsh scorn, and it's all because of her budding relationship with the star of Astraea Hill—Hanazono Shizuma. But as the Etoile Competition gets underway, Nagisa discovers a secret about Shizuma's past that shakes her very will to compete. Can Nagisa overcome her doubts before all is lost? Find out in the angst-filled second volume of *Strawberry Panic!*

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